

Basic Installation Guide – Engineered Click Lock

Please note: This is only a guide and we always recommend that you use professional installers for our products as incorrect installation or preparation of the subfloor would void warranty. Installation should be in accordance with Australian Standards – AS 1884 – 2012 Floor Coverings – Resilient Sheet and Tiles – Installation Practices.

Prior To Laying

- Prior to installation the flooring should be removed out of the boxes and stacked in piles not greater than 5 boxes high 24 hours before installation and acclimatized within a set temperature between 65°(18°c) and 85°f (28°c). **(Do not attempt to install this flooring outside of the recommended temperature unless you are a skilled installer as correct measures need to be taken to prevent issues arising in the floor such as buckling.)**

Subfloor Preparation

- Engineered Click Lock Flooring can float over existing hard level surfaces such as timber, concrete, existing vinyl and even ceramic tiles. **(It is important to note that all substrates need to be level before laying the Engineered Click Lock flooring otherwise you can encounter imperfections in the floor that maybe present during and after the installation.)**
- Any uneven surfaces will need to be levelled with levelling compounds or other material suitable for the application, please talk to a professional for the best advice for your subfloor.

Installation Tools

- Stanley Knife
- Straight Edge
- Tape Measure
- Marking Pencil
- Hammer and tapping block
- Chalk Line
- Pull Bar (Optional but Advantageous)
- Table Saw, Jig Saw & Miter Saw (Optional)
- Safety Glasses
- Dust Mask
- Safety Gloves

Step 1: Floating Installation

- Start installing parallel to the longest straightest wall, normally an exterior wall. Install the flooring pieces left to right. The groove side of the plank should be facing away from the starting wall.
- Using spacers, leave a minimum gap of 10mm - 12mm for expansion between the flooring and walls, door frames, pipes and cabinets etc. The space you leave will depend on the distance of the length and width of the floor. You may need to leave more gap depending on the overall span as well as using expansion joints for long distances.

Step 2: Laying the First Row

- After laying the first plank, lay the second plank in position and tap it toward the first plank to lock the ends of the boards together. Be sure to use a tapping block so you don't damage the boards with the hammer. Continue laying the boards this way until you reach the other wall.

Step 3: Laying the Second Row

- To start the second row, install the first plank, ensure the plank is at least 8 inches longer or shorter than the first board in the previous row. There should be a minimum of 8-inch stagger between any one joint and the nearest joints in adjacent rows. Planks used to start or end a row should be at least 6 inches long.
- Next, install the second plank in the second row by inserting the tongue side into the groove first, then pressing the board down, locking it into the previous row. Then tap the board on its end with a tapping block and hammer to lock it into the previous board.

Step 4: Continue Installing

- Continue installing rows, working left to right and adding additional planks in each row while maintaining a minimum 8-inch stagger between adjacent row joints.

Step 5: Cutting End of Row Boards

- The last board in each row should be cut to fit while still maintaining a 10mm – 12mm expansion gap at the wall. Here's how:
 1. Flip the board over (placing the groove to your left.)
 2. Measure the board by the gap in the row.
 3. Mark and cut the board using a Stanley knife or saw.
 4. Then flip the board back over and it will be ready to be tapped into place.
 5. You may use the remaining piece to start the next row assuming it is a minimum of 6 inches long.

Step 6: Installing Around Objects

- Use a hole saw drill bit to make perfect cuts for pipes.
- Use a jamb saw to cut the door frame for a cleaner finish.
- Use a jig saw or Stanley knife for cutting pieces around irregular shapes.

Tips to remember:

Due to the nature of the vinyl, in comparison to other flooring there is minimal expansion and contraction though some movement can be expected to occur once your floor is laid and it climatizes to its environment. On some occasions gaps or peaking may appear between boards if temperature fluctuations have occurred. The amount of movement a floor experiences is influenced by humidity, installation methods and the sub floor the vinyl product has been laid on. Some maintenance may be required to tighten up the boards after installation

Here are some useful tips to help you achieve the best finish for your floor.

Subfloor: Timber subfloors such as yellow tongue, timber planks and chipboard are more inclined to move than Masonite, Plywood or a cement based or concrete floor. Timber subfloors expand and contract with temperature changes and this can have a direct impact on the vinyl floor. If you have a timber subfloor such as these, we recommend laying down Masonite or plywood sheeting first to help minimize movement and then laying the vinyl floor over this.

Temperature: Click Lock is designed to move as whole floor space. Humidity will have the biggest impact on floor movement. High humidity in summer will cause the planks to expand. In winter low humidity can cause the floor to shrink. If the floor is not able to move properly as temperatures change, gaps or peaking can appear at the weakest points in the floor. The best way to help combat this is to ensure a 10 - 12mm gap is left around the outside of each room including doorframes, pipes and cupboards etc. The floor then uses this space to expand and contract. If this space is not there, the floor will still move, but instead of using the expansion gap you've provided it will find the weakest point in the floor, which is usually where the planks click together, and gaps or peaking will appear. This can happen on the long and short ends of the plank. If the span is more the 13m long (across a hallway for example) an expansion gap will be needed to break the span. This can be done in a doorway to help keep it neat providing the span from one expansion gap to the other is no more the 13m. Sometimes heavy objects on the floor will stop the floor being able to move, as will edging strips that are attached to the planks in door frames or where the floor meets other flooring such as tiles or carpet. If the floor is running through multiple rooms and gaps are not left around door frames, the planks can pull apart in or near the doorway. This is because, as the floor has moved its meet resistance from the door frame, the floor doesn't stop moving just because the doorframe is there, instead it will find the weakest point in the floor and the planks will begin to separate to accommodate the movement. In winter this show as gaps between the planks, in Summer the planks will bubble up or "Peak."

Installation: Installation methods can also be a contributing factor. A 10-12mm gap must be left around all edges of each room, including doorways, pipes and cupboards etc. Many people make sure they do this around the wall but forget areas around other edges or where the floors meet carpet or tiles. Sometimes people accidentally glue the edge of their planks to the edging they use to cover the gap between the planks and the tiles or carpet. When the floor moves in this area it won't be able to do so at the edge, so it will find another avenue which is usually between planks nearby.

After Installation / Floor Care & Maintenance

- Sweep up all rubbish and debris that are on the floor using a soft bristle broom.
- Any spare material left over should be stored away for future replacement if required.
- Install trims or existing skirting to cover the expansion gaps and transition strips where required.
- When moving furniture back on the flooring make sure to properly protect the flooring.
- Use felt protectors on furniture legs.
- Avoid rubber and petroleum-based products such as tires, casters, floor mats or asphalt sealers as these may contain chemicals that can permanently stain flooring.
- Clean the floor with a non-abrasive cleaning solution or warm soapy water using a PH neutral detergent as strong cleaner can cause permanent damage to your flooring.
- Wipe up spills immediately with a damp cloth to prevent staining.
- Sweep and vacuum the floor regularly to keep your floors looking beautiful and new for longer.
- Avoid long periods of sun exposure to the flooring by closing blinds and drapes in peak sunlight hours. This can cause colour fading and buckling in your floor due to extreme surface temperatures.

25 Year Residential Warranty:

Our 25 Year Limited Residential Warranty for Serfloor Engineered Click Lock means that for 25 years, from the date of purchase, your floor will be free from manufacturing defects and will not wear through when installed and maintained according to instructions supplied with each carton and in accordance with AS 1884 – 2012 Act.

- This guarantee applies only to the original end user and proof of purchase is required for all claims.
- The guarantee is for a replacement or refund of the material only, no labor. Claims for wear must show a minimum area of 5% of the overall plank/piece that has been affected.
- High-heeled shoes, rolling carts, furniture and chairs without protective pads can damage the floor and are not covered by this warranty.
- Serfloor Australia does not warranty any colour fading so it is imperative you follow instructions on prevention in our care & maintenance section.
- All claims resulting from a manufacturing defect must be claimed prior to installation if problems are apparent contact your authorized dealer.
- If you wish to file a claim under warranty, contact the authorized dealer where the flooring was purchased.
- For further information regarding inclusions and exclusions in our warranty, please visit www.serfloor.com.au

15 Year Commercial Warranty:

Our 15 Year Limited Residential Warranty for Serfloor Engineered Click Lock means that for 15 years, from the date of purchase, your floor will be free from manufacturing defects and will not wear through when installed and maintained according to instructions supplied with each carton and in accordance with AS 1884 – 2012 Act.

- This guarantee applies only to the original end user and proof of purchase is required for all claims.
- The guarantee is for a replacement or refund of the material only, no labor. Claims for wear must show a minimum area of 5% of the overall plank/piece that has been affected.
- High-heeled shoes, rolling carts, furniture and chairs without protective pads can damage the floor and are not covered by this warranty.
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