

Loose Lay Plank Installation Guide

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.

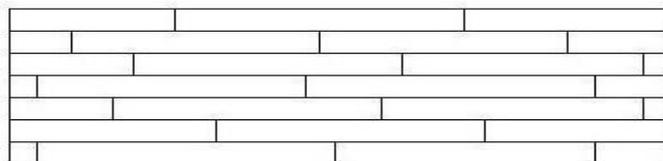
Basic Tools Required for the Installation:

Stanley Knife, Tape Measure, Straight Edge, Square, String/chalk Line & if required 1.6mm V notch Trowel and double-sided tape or glue.

Installation steps for Loose Lay planks:

1. Take all the planks out of the box and stack them in piles of about 5 boxes high and allow them to acclimatize and level out for 24 hours prior to laying them between a recommended controlled temperature of 18°C– 28°C (Do not attempt installation in severe conditions if it's less than 10°C or more than 35°C). Ensure the surface in which you lay them on is level/straight.
2. Make sure you thoroughly clean your floor from all contaminants, (Sweeping, vacuuming & damp mopping may be required).
3. Repair any damaged areas, holes, gaps and indentations by using a compound or anything recommended by your specialist. The floor will need to be level throughout the area that will be covered with the Loose Lay Vinyl Planks.
4. Plan out the direction the planks will be laid as well as the starting point and think about how you will stagger the planks and what lengths you will be using. **Please note:** Do not use a piece shorter than 6 inches for the staggering of the planks.
5. To ensure your wall is straight, use a string/chalk line from one end of the wall to the other to ensure your planks begin straight when they are being laid. If the wall is straight the planks can be laid right up next to the wall or skirting. If the wall is not straight use the chalk/string line to create a straight edge. If the wall is not straight, the first row of planks will need to be glued to maintain the straight edge as you work across the room. In this instance you will also need to back fill the gap between the wall and planks once the floor is laid to ensure the planks don't move. Loose lay is designed to be laid wall to wall with no expansion gaps, so all the planks need to be a snug fit to get the best finish and to minimize movement in the planks after installation. It is recommended to start laying the first row from the corner of your wall however you can begin laying at another point if you are required to. Make sure to measure the total width between the walls divided by the width of the plank to ensure the last piece is reasonable in size when laying it down.
6. Begin by removing existing molding/skirting or undercut the jambs so planks can slide underneath for a clean finish. First row must be glued or taped. For Domestic applications it is not essential to use adhesive over the whole floor, however in climates where extreme temperature changes occur gluing is recommended to minimize movement in the floor. For Commercial applications a grid style pattern for gluing is required to prevent movement in the floor from heavy traffic.
7. If using Vinyl Adhesive, spread the adhesive on to the floor using a 1.6mm V notch trowel. (evenly spreading the adhesive). Once the Adhesive has become tacky (the adhesive has a chewing gum like consistency if you touch it), the planks can then start to be laid on the adhesive. The time it takes for the adhesive to become tacky depends on the temperature in the room. It can take 10-60 minutes to become tacky, the warmer the temperature, the quicker it will become tacky. **Please note:** It is important to know the type of adhesive you are using as each adhesive by type/brand may have different structures therefore may need to be applied differently. Please ensure you consider the directions advised by the adhesive type/brand you are using. We highly recommend you use our Serfloor Adhesive with our Serfloor product range.
8. Lay the first row of planks in position, remember to face any planks that have been manually cut towards the wall to ensure the planks join in nice and tight. Ensure your first row is straight before commencing with the second row as this is vital to sustain a straight line in successive rows. To cut the planks use a straight edge or a plank and place it on the marked area where the cut needs to be made. Keeping the front image facing upright score the plank with your Stanley knife and snap it down on a hard edge. If the plank does not snap off completely cut the plank from underneath and follow through until the pieces are separated.
9. Begin laying the second row of planks down and at this point you need to use different size pieces to begin staggering the floor to create a random appearance, you can potentially use the last cut piece from your first row as the first piece for your second row. Keep in mind the piece you are using is not to be less than 6 inches as all the joins in the floor need to be apart by a minimum of that distance.

Example:



**CORRECT
METHOD**

10. Continue installing the remaining rows following the same instructions above and keeping note of all the requirements. Once all the flooring is laid you can then install the removed molding/ skirting. If you have undercut the jambs or laid the planks up against the molding/skirting, you can install beading to fill the gaps around the perimeter for a clean finish. Be careful not to secure the skirting or beading to the Loose Lay or to lay the skirting or beading too tightly against the Loose Lay, this can stop the planks from expanding and contracting from the edge of the wall as it's supposed to, and gaps can appear where the boards meet.

Tips to remember:

Due to the nature of vinyl, it does expand and contract. 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: Humidity can also impact on floor movement. High humidity in summer will cause the planks to expand. In winter low humidity can cause the floor to shrink. It is important to ensure the planks are installed correctly to minimize the impact temperature fluctuations can have on the floor.

Installation: Installation methods can also be a contributing factor. Loose Lay is designed to be laid loose from wall to wall with no expansions gaps. Boards should be a snug fit. If they are packed to loosely during installation or gaps are left around the edges, gaps can appear as the temperature fluctuates and the boards will then need to be tightened up. To do this the boards will need to be pushed together by working from one side of the room to the other and filling the gap with an additional piece of plank. This can also occur even if they are glued so it is important to take your time when installing to ensure each plank is pushed snugly against the plank next to it.

Basic Maintenance:

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove dust and dirt from the floor and avoid stains by cleaning any liquid and food products off the floor promptly.
- Mop the floor using a neutral detergent cleaner or simply just warm to hot water and squeeze excess water prior to mopping.
- Protect your floor from direct sunlight with curtains/blinds or any type of blockers to prevent colour fading for long life as our warranty will not cover this.
- You can use a Polish or Sealer for your floor using a Vinyl/PVC recommended solution, however, be aware this can make the floor slippery.
- Ensure all furniture and heavy appliances on the floor have soft felt pads to avoid scratching and damaging the floor as warranty will not cover this.

30 Year Residential Warranty:

Our 30 Year Limited Residential Warranty for Serfloor Loose Lay means that for 30 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 Loose Lay 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.
- 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