

INSTALLATION GUIDES

- Engineered Hybrid Click Lock
- Loose Lay
- Glue Down
- Vinyl Click Lock

HYBRID CLICK LOCK PLANK INSTALLATION GUIDE

Important Information

It is important to employ safe working practices and use safety protection gear when installing flooring, such as protective eyewear and clothing, safe footwear and respiratory protection gear.

Please note that this is only a guide and we always recommend that you use professional installers for our products. Installation must be done in accordance with AS/NZS 1884-2012 Floor coverings – Resilient sheets and tiles – Installation practices. Incorrect installation or preparation of the subfloor will void your warranty.

Please read through the entire Installation Guide before you begin installing your new flooring.

Installation Tips

Tips to minimise movement caused by factors, including temperature and humidity, subfloor and improper installation.

- ❖ Ensure that both the room and the new planks are acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours prior to installation. This temperature should be maintained prior to, during, and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed.
 - The indoor temperature must always be above 10°C and below 35°C.
- ❖ Ensure that your subfloor moisture content is not above the recommended amount according to the current Building Code of Australia and/or relevant state and territory building codes.
- ❖ If you have a timber subfloor, we recommend laying down Masonite or ply sheeting first to help minimize movement and then laying the vinyl floor over this.
- ❖ In circumstances where underlay is being used, we recommend using hard rubber underlay only. Other underlay may cause the planks to bow.
- ❖ Ensure a 10mm gap is left around the outside of each room, including doorframes, pipes, cupboards etc.
- ❖ In circumstances where the span is more the 18m long (e.g. across a hallway), 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 18m.
- ❖ Heavy objects on the floor, edging strips attached to the planks in door frames or where the floor meets other flooring, may restrict movement of the planks and prevent the floor from expanding and contracting. This may result in peaking or separation of the planks.
- ❖ Prior to installation, determine whether you will remove old skirtings and replace them with new ones after installation. We leave the choice to reuse old/new skirting up to the installer as they are the ones onsite and best able to determine if they can reuse the skirting.
- ❖ Check all planks before and during installation (if defective planks are installed, the warranty will be void in respect to those planks).

Required Tools and Equipment

- ❖ Safety gear and protective clothing *particularly, safety glasses, dust mask and safety gloves*
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Stanley knife
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ Straight Edge
- ❖ Square
- ❖ String/chalk line
- ❖ Hammer and tapping block
- ❖ Pull Bar (optional)
- ❖ Table Saw, Jig Saw or Mitre Saw (optional)

Preparation

- ❖ The room that the flooring is to be installed in should be acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours before installation (be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed).
- ❖ Take all the planks out of the box and stack them in piles of about 5 boxes high 48 hours prior to allow them to acclimatise before installation.
- ❖ Do not attempt installation in severe conditions if it's less than 10°C or more than 35°C.
- ❖ Make sure your floor is thoroughly cleaned from all contaminants (sweeping, vacuuming and damp mopping may be required).
- ❖ Ensure the subfloor is dry, flat, even, firmly fixed, stable, clean and free from debris, nails, grease, old adhesives and any chemical substances.
- ❖ All substrates need to be level before laying the flooring otherwise you can encounter imperfections in the floor that maybe present during and after the installation.
 - Engineered Click Lock Flooring can float over existing hard level surfaces such as timber, concrete, existing vinyl and even ceramic tiles.
 - *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.*
- ❖ 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 new flooring.
- ❖ Remove any carpet, cushion vinyl, floating laminate, needle felt, parquet and the like.
- ❖ Plan out:
 - the direction the planks will be laid;
 - the starting point;
 - 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.*

Installation

Step 1

- ❖ Use a string/chalk line from one end of the wall to the other to ensure your wall is straight and 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.
 - It is recommended to start laying the first row from the left 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.
- ❖ If the wall is not straight, please use the chalk/string line to create a straight edge.

Step 2

- ❖ 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 7mm - 10mm 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 3

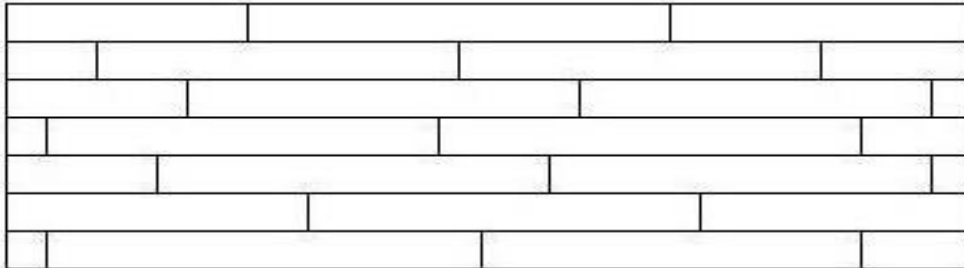
- ❖ After laying the first plank, lay the second plank in position and tap it toward the first plank to lock the ends of the boards together. Be sure to use a tapping block so you don't damage the boards with the hammer.
- ❖ Continue laying the boards this way until you reach the other wall.

***DISCLAIMER REGARDING STAIR INSTALLATIONS:** *If you are installing your new flooring on stairs, each plank must be glued with hard set adhesive and foam backing must be removed from the planks before gluing.*

Step 4

- ❖ 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.

Example:



**CORRECT
METHOD**

Step 5

- ❖ 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 6

- ❖ The last board in each row should be cut to fit while still maintaining a 7mm – 10mm expansion gap at the wall. In order to achieve this, you must follow the below steps.
 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.

Finishing

- ❖ Once all the flooring is laid you can then re-install the molding or skirting.
- ❖ If you have undercut the jambs or laid the planks up to the molding or skirting, you can install beading to cover the gaps around the perimeter for a clean finish.
- ❖ Be careful not to secure the skirting or beading to the Click Lock or to lay the skirting or beading to tightly against the Click Lock, this can stop the Click Lock from expanding and contracting from the edge of the wall as it is supposed to and gaps can appear where the boards are clicked together.

Tips to remember:

- ❖ Due to the nature of vinyl, it does expand and contract. Serfloor Click Lock has a fiberglass core which helps to minimize expansion and contraction however, 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 ply 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 than 12m 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 than 12m. 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 shows as gaps between the planks, in Summer the planks will bubble up or "Peak" which is why it's important to leave the expansion gap around the perimeter of the room to avoid future issues.
- ❖ **Installation:** Installation methods can also be a contributing factor. A 10mm 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.

Care and Maintenance

- ❖ *Please see our **Care & Maintenance Guide** for information about how to care for and maintain your new flooring.*

At the date of issue, information in this Service Booklet is correct. Serfloor Australia Pty Ltd reserves the right to make changes to this guide without adversely affecting the quality or performance of our product.

LOOSE LAY INSTALLATION GUIDE

Important Information

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Please read through the entire Installation Guide before you begin installing your new flooring.

Installation Tips

Tips to minimise movement caused by factors, including temperature and humidity, subfloor and improper installation.

- ❖ Ensure that both the room and the new planks are acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours prior to installation. This temperature should be maintained prior to, during, and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed.
 - The indoor temperature must always be above 10°C and below 35°C.
- ❖ Ensure that your subfloor moisture content is not above the recommended amount according to the current Building Code of Australia and/or relevant state and territory building codes.
- ❖ If you have a timber subfloor, we recommend laying down Masonite or ply sheeting first to help minimize movement and then laying the vinyl floor over this.
- ❖ In circumstances where underlay is being used, we recommend using hard rubber underlay only. Other underlay may cause the planks to bow.
- ❖ Heavy objects on the floor, edging strips, attached to the planks in door frames or where the floor meets other flooring, may restrict movement of the planks and prevent the floor from expanding and contracting. This may result in peaking or separation of the planks.
- ❖ Prior to installation, determine whether you will remove old skirtings and replace them with new ones after installation. We leave the choice to reuse old/new skirting up to the installer as they are the ones onsite and best able to determine if they can reuse the skirting.
- ❖ Check all planks before and during installation (if defective planks are installed, the warranty will be void in respect to those planks).

Required Tools and Equipment

- ❖ Safety gear and protective clothing
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Stanley knife
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ 1.6mm V Notch Trowel

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- ❖ Straight Edge
- ❖ Square
- ❖ String/chalk line
- ❖ Vinyl plank adhesive (double sided tape or glue)

Preparation

- ❖ The room that the flooring is to be installed in should be acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours before installation (be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed).
- ❖ Take all the planks out of the box and stack them in piles of about 5 boxes high 24 hours prior to allow them to acclimatise before installation.
- ❖ Do not attempt installation in severe conditions if it's less than 10°C or more than 35°C.
- ❖ Make sure your floor is thoroughly cleaned from all contaminants (sweeping, vacuuming and damp mopping may be required).
- ❖ Ensure the subfloor is dry, flat, even, firmly fixed, stable, clean and free from debris, nails, grease, old adhesives and any chemical substances.
- ❖ 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 new flooring.
- ❖ Remove any carpet, cushion vinyl, floating laminate, needle felt, parquet and the like.
- ❖ Plan out:
 - the direction the planks will be laid;
 - the starting point;
 - 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.*

Installation

Step 1

- ❖ Use a string/chalk line from one end of the wall to the other to ensure your wall is straight and 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.
 - It is recommended to start laying the first row from the left 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.
- ❖ If the wall is not straight use the chalk/string line to create a straight edge.
 - The first row of planks will need to be glued to maintain the straight edge as you work across the room.
 - You will need to back fill the gap between the wall and planks once the floor is laid to ensure the planks don't move.

Step 2

- ❖ If you are removing existing molding, skirting or undercutting the jambs so planks can slide underneath for a clean finish, you will need to make sure the planks run right up to the wall.
 - If your wall is not straight, the first row must be glued or taped to stop the planks moving.
 - You may also need to apply a strip of adhesive in doorways along the transition line between two different floor types.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Commercial applications
 - All flooring must be glued using hard set adhesive.

***DISCLAIMER REGARDING STAIR INSTALLATIONS:** *If you are installing your new flooring on stairs, each plank must be glued with hard set adhesive.*

Step 3

- ❖ Hard Set Vinyl Adhesive is recommended when gluing the edges or whole floor.
- ❖ 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. Apply hand force pressure over the top of the plank evenly moving your hand in a forwards and backwards motion.
 - This ensures the plank will get a strong bond with the adhesive. It can take 10-15 minutes to become tacky, the warmer the temperature, the quicker it will become tacky. The time it takes for the adhesive to become tacky depends on the substrate porosity and ambient temperature in the room.
- ❖ If planks are being laid over a non-porous surface such as vinyl, Pressure Sensitive Glue will need to be used instead. Please contact the manufacturer for instructions.
 - 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 on the adhesive type/brand you are using before application. We highly recommend you use our Serfloor Adhesive with our Serfloor product range as we cannot guarantee other brands will work satisfactorily with our product.

Step 4

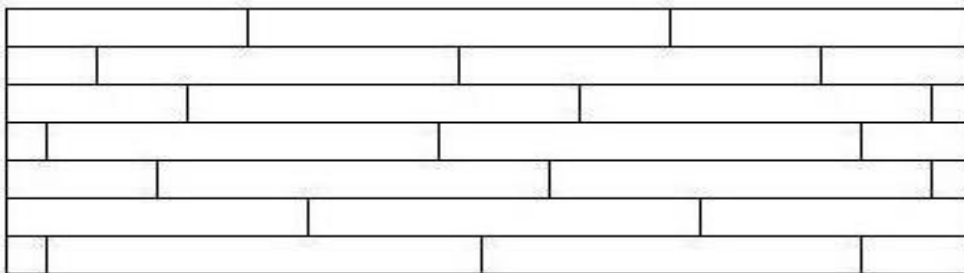
- ❖ Lay the first row of planks in position, remember to face any planks that have been manually cut towards the wall to ensure the planks join in nice and tight.

- ❖ 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.

Step 5

- ❖ 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 joints in the floor need to be apart by a minimum of that distance.

Example:



**CORRECT
METHOD**

Step 5

- ❖ Continue installing the remaining rows following the same instructions above and keeping note of all the requirements.

Finishing

- ❖ Once all the flooring is laid you can then install the removed molding or skirting.
- ❖ If you have undercut the jambs or laid the planks up against the molding or 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.

Care and Maintenance

Please see our **Care & Maintenance Guide** for further information about how to care for and maintain your new flooring.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDE

Important Information

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Installation Tips

Tips to minimise movement caused by factors, including temperature and humidity, subfloor and improper installation.

- ❖ Ensure that both the room and the new planks are acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours prior to installation. This temperature should be maintained prior to, during, and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed.
 - The indoor temperature must always be above 10°C and below 35°C.
- ❖ Ensure that your subfloor moisture content is not above the recommended amount according to the current Building Code of Australia and/or relevant state and territory building codes.
- ❖ If you have a timber subfloor, we recommend laying down Masonite or ply sheeting first to help minimize movement and then laying the vinyl floor over this.
- ❖ In circumstances where underlay is being used, we recommend using hard rubber underlay only. Other underlay may cause the planks to bow.
- ❖ Prior to installation, determine whether you will remove old skirtings and replace them with new ones after installation. We leave the choice to reuse old/new skirting up to the installer as they are the ones onsite and best able to determine if they can reuse the skirting.
- ❖ Check all planks before and during installation (if defective planks are installed, the warranty will be void in respect to those planks).

Required Tools and Equipment

- ❖ Safety gear and protective clothing
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Stanley knife
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ 1.6mm V Notch Trowel
- ❖ Straight Edge
- ❖ Square
- ❖ String/chalk line
- ❖ Vinyl plank adhesive

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Preparation

- ❖ The room that the flooring is to be installed in should be acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours before installation (be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed).
- ❖ Take all the planks out of the box and stack them in piles of about 5 boxes high 48 hours prior to allow them to acclimatise before installation.
- ❖ Do not attempt installation in severe conditions if it's less than 10°C or more than 35°C.
- ❖ Make sure your floor is thoroughly cleaned from all contaminants (sweeping, vacuuming and damp mopping may be required).
- ❖ Ensure the subfloor is dry, flat, even, firmly fixed, stable, clean and free from debris, nails, grease, old adhesives and any chemical substances.
- ❖ Repair any damaged areas, holes, gaps and indentations by using a compound or anything recommended by your installation specialist. The floor will need to be level throughout the area that will be covered with the new flooring.
- ❖ Remove any carpet, cushion vinyl, floating laminate, needle felt, parquet and the like.
- ❖ Plan out:
 - the direction the planks will be laid;
 - the starting point;
 - 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.*

Installation

Step 1

- ❖ Use a string/chalk line from one end of the wall to the other to ensure your wall is straight and your planks begin straight when they are being laid.
- ❖ If the wall is straight the planks can be laid up to the wall or skirting. Leave a 3-5mm gap between the plank and wall or skirting to allow for movement during severe temperatures.
 - It is recommended to start laying the first row from the left 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.
- ❖ If the wall is not straight, please use the chalk/string line to create a straight edge.
 - You may need to back fill the gap between the wall and planks once the floor is laid to create a straight line. Make sure you maintain a 3-5mm gap between the planks and wall or skirting

Step 2

- ❖ Begin by removing existing molding or skirting and undercut the jambs so planks can slide underneath for a clean finish.

- Alternatively, you can put them up against the molding or skirting leaving a 3-5mm gap to allow for movement during severe temperatures.

Step 3

- ❖ If you begin from the corner of the wall don't forget to leave a 3-5mm expansion gap between the floor and the wall.

***DISCLAIMER REGARDING STAIR INSTALLATIONS:** *If you are installing your new flooring on stairs, each plank must be glued with hard set adhesive.*

Step 4

- ❖ Using a 1.6mm V notch trowel, spread the adhesive on to the floor (evenly spreading the adhesive).
- ❖ We highly recommend you use our Serfloor Adhesive with our Serfloor product range as we cannot guarantee other brands will work satisfactorily with our product.
 - Please note: It is important to know the type of adhesive you are using as each adhesive by type/brand may have different structures and; therefore, may need to be applied differently.
 - Please ensure you consider the directions advised by the adhesive type/brand you are using.

Step 5

- ❖ Once the adhesive has become tacky (the adhesive will have a chewing gum like consistency if you touch it), the planks can then start to be laid on the adhesive.
 - It can take 10-15 minutes to become tacky, the warmer the temperature, the quicker it will become tacky. The time it takes for the adhesive to become tacky depends on the substrate porosity and ambient temperature in the room.
- ❖ If planks are being laid over a non-porous surface such as vinyl, Pressure Sensitive Glue will need to be used instead. Please contact the manufacturer for instructions.

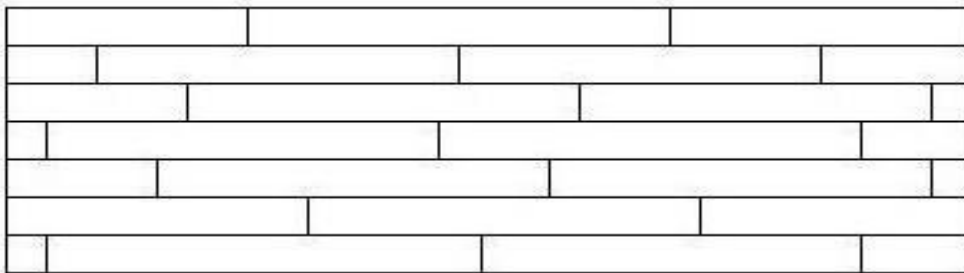
Step 6

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ If you are starting from the corner of the wall do not forget to leave 3-5mm gap to allow movement in severe temperatures.
- ❖ Apply hand force pressure over the top of the plank evenly moving your hand in a forwards and backwards motion. This ensures the plank will get a strong bond with the adhesive.
- ❖ 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 another 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.

Step 7

- ❖ 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**

Step 8

- ❖ Continue installing the remaining rows following the same instructions above and keeping note of all the requirements.

Finishing

- ❖ Once all the flooring is laid you can go over the floor with a heavy roller to ensure the plank has bonded to the adhesive successfully (optional).
- ❖ Avoid traffic on the floor for 12 hours after installation.
- ❖ Re-install the removed molding or skirting. If you have undercut the jambs or laid the planks up against the molding or skirting, you can install beading to cover the gaps around the perimeter for a clean finish.
- ❖ Be careful not to secure the skirting or beading to the planks or to lay the skirting or beading too tightly against the planks, 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.

Care and Maintenance

- ❖ Please see our **Care & Maintenance Guide** for further information about how to care for and maintain your new flooring.

VINYL CLICK LOCK PLANK INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Installation Tips

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 - The indoor temperature must always be above 10°C and below 35°C.
- ❖ Ensure that your subfloor moisture content is not above the recommended amount according to the current Building Code of Australia and/or relevant state and territory building codes.
- ❖ If you have a timber subfloor, we recommend laying down Masonite or ply sheeting first to help minimize movement and then laying the vinyl floor over this.
- ❖ In circumstances where underlay is being used, we recommend using hard rubber underlay only. Other underlay may cause the planks to bow and/or cause the click mechanism to bed and break.
- ❖ Ensure a 10mm gap is left around the outside of each room, including doorframes, pipes, cupboards etc.
- ❖ In circumstances where the span is more the 12m long (e.g. across a hallway), 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 12m.
- ❖ Heavy objects on the floor, edging strips attached to the planks in door frames or where the floor meets other flooring, may restrict movement of the planks and prevent the floor from expanding and contracting. This may result in peaking or separation of the planks.
- ❖ Do not use a hammer or tapping block when installing Click Lock planks. Use of these tools may damage the click mechanism.
- ❖ Prior to installation, determine whether you will remove old skirtings and replace them with new ones after installation. We leave the choice to reuse old/new skirting up to the installer as they are the ones onsite and best able to determine if they can reuse the skirting.

- ❖ Check all planks before and during installation (if defective planks are installed, the warranty will be void in respect to those planks).

Required Tools and Equipment

- ❖ Safety gear and protective clothing
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Stanley knife
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ Straight Edge
- ❖ Square
- ❖ String/chalk line

Preparation

- ❖ The room that the flooring is to be installed in should be acclimatised to 18-27°C for a period of at least 48 hours before installation (be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed).
- ❖ Take all the planks out of the box and stack them in piles of about 5 boxes high 48 hours prior to allow them to acclimatise before installation.
- ❖ Do not attempt installation in severe conditions if it's less than 10°C or more than 35°C.
- ❖ Make sure your floor is thoroughly cleaned from all contaminants (sweeping, vacuuming and damp mopping may be required).
- ❖ Ensure the subfloor is dry, flat, even, firmly fixed, stable, clean and free from debris, nails, grease, old adhesives and any chemical substances.
- ❖ Repair any damaged areas, holes, gaps and indentations by using a compound or anything recommended by your installation specialist. The floor will need to be level throughout the area that will be covered with the new flooring.
- ❖ Remove any carpet, cushion vinyl, floating laminate, needle felt, parquet and the like.
- ❖ Plan out:
 - the direction the planks will be laid;
 - the starting point;
 - 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.*

Installation

Step 1

- ❖ Begin by removing existing molding or skirting and undercut the jambs so planks can slide underneath for a clean finish.
 - Alternatively, you can run them to within 10-12mm from the molding or skirting and cover the expansion gap with beading.

- ❖ Use a string/chalk line from one end of the wall to the other to ensure your wall is straight and your planks begin straight when they are being laid.
 - It is recommended to start laying the first row from the left 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.

Step 2

- ❖ A minimum 10-12mm gap will need to be left around the edges of all permanent fixtures, including walls, door frames, pipes and cupboards etc.
 - Subflooring that consists of timber may require larger gaps due to the fluctuation of heat and movement under the floor.
- ❖ If the floor will be in direct sunlight or subjected to direct heat for periods of time it may be ideal to leave larger expansion gaps between the wall and the floor as surface temperature from the sun could exceed the planks expansion resistance.
- ❖ Distances of 12m or more will also require an expansion gap, this allows the floor to maintain its ability to expand and contract with temperature change.

Step 3

- ❖ Lay the first row with the short end tongue side facing towards the wall.
- ❖ If you begin from the corner of the wall don't forget to leave a 10-12mm expansion gap between the floor and the wall.

Step 4

- ❖ Interlock short ends by inserting the tongue side into the groove edge at an approximate angle of 45°.
- ❖ The planks should have a near seamless appearance and are not easily pulled apart when clicked in correctly.
- ❖ 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. Keep the front image facing upright score the plank with your Stanley knife and snap it down on a hard edge.
- ❖ Be careful not to force the planks into place or to alter the angle when joining each plank together, otherwise you risk damaging the click mechanism and gaps may appear at the damaged sections during colder months.

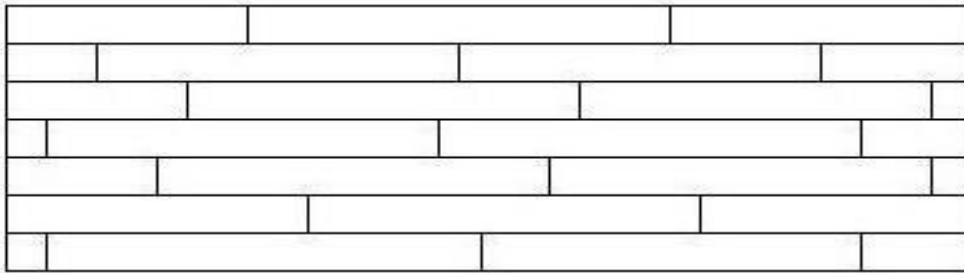
***DISCLAIMER REGARDING STAIR INSTALLATIONS:** *If you are installing your new flooring on stairs, each plank must be glued with hard set adhesive.*

Step 5

- ❖ Begin laying the second row inserting the tongue side into the groove edge of the first row at an approximate 45° angle making sure the cut ends face the wall.

- ❖ 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**

Step 6

- ❖ Continue installing the remaining rows following the same instructions above and keeping note of all the requirements.

Finishing

- ❖ Once all the flooring is laid you can then re-install the molding or skirting.
- ❖ If you have undercut the jambs or laid the planks up against the molding or skirting, you can install beading to cover the gaps around the perimeter for a clean finish.
- ❖ Be careful not to secure the skirting or beading to the Click Lock or to lay the skirting or beading to tightly against the Click Lock, this can stop the Click Lock from expanding and contracting from the edge of the wall as it is supposed to and gaps can appear where the boards are clicked together.

Tips to remember:

- ❖ Due to the nature of vinyl, it does expand and contract. Serfloor Click Lock has a fiberglass core which helps to minimize expansion and contraction however, 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 ply 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 12m 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 12m. 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" which is why it's important to leave the expansion gap around the perimeter of the room to avoid future issues.
- ❖ **Installation:** Installation methods can also be a contributing factor. A 10mm 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 accidently 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.

Care and Maintenance

- ❖ *Please see our **Care & Maintenance Guide** for further information about how to care for and maintain your new flooring.*