



INSTALLATION GUIDE

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THE SUBFLOOR

The subfloor must be permanently dry, level, sound and crack-free in accordance with AS 1884-2012. Before laying begins, materials such as grease, oil, paint, existing floor coverings and their adhesives, curing or parting agents, or any surface treatment, particularly oxides, mark-out paints, wax crayons which could adversely affect adhesion, discoloration or any other detrimental effect shall be removed from the subfloor via mechanical means.

MOISTURE CONTENT OF THE SUBFLOOR

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

Wherever possible, the relative humidity in-situ probe test, in accordance with ASFM F2170, shall be carried out on the subfloor as, even though the surface may record an acceptable moisture content reading, this may not be the case beneath the surface. The only exception to this test is where there is in-slab heating, a security or an anti-static wiring installation, or where slabs have been treated with a penetrative moisture suppressant. In these cases the surface mounted insulated hood test, in accordance with ASTM F2420, shall be performed.

Concrete floors shall be considered sufficiently dry when measurements taken in accordance with ASTM F2170 for in-situ probe test do not exceed 75% RH. 3 tests shall be performed for the first 100M² and one test for each additional 100M². Please also refer to the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for acceptable levels for their product. For surface mounted testing a reading of 70% RH is considered sufficiently dry.

TIMBER TYPE SUBFLOORS

Timber, plywood and particleboard subfloors shall be considered sufficiently dry when moisture content measurements are within a range of 10% to 14%. Similarly, as for concrete substrates, 3 tests shall be

performed for the first 100M2 and at least 1 additional test for each additional 100M2.

PREPARATION OF THE SUBFLOOR

Concrete subfloors should be prepared in accordance with AS 1884–2012 Section 3.

As a guide, in principle all subfloors must be pre-smoothed and leveled. The slightest unevenness in the subfloor will show up if leveling is omitted. Consult your adhesive and leveling supplier if desired. Impregnating and leveling materials must be used in line with the manufacturer's instructions. They must be applied such that they bond to one another and permanently to the substrate, do not tear and are absolutely firm. The minimum leveling thickness for a rolling load is 2mm.

Timber subfloors shall comply with the relevant requirements for flooring given in the AS 1684 series.

INSTALLATION CONDITIONS

Minimum room temperature of 18 degrees C.

Minimum under floor temperature of 15 degrees C.

Maximum RH of the air 70%.

Maximum room temperature of 28 degrees C.

Not only must the environment be at a minimum and maximum temperature, but also the temperature of the floor coverings and also the primer and adhesive.

Ensure there are optimum drying conditions.

When applying primer, only use a roller.

Further detailed can be found in AS 1884–2012 Section 4.

GENERAL TIPS ON HOW TO INSTALL

INSPECT THE SUBFLOOR

Always check that the floor is permanently dry, free of flaws, clean, resistant to pressure and stress and flat.

Pay attention to floors which have had old existing floor coverings removed. Check for old nails, screws, staples and contaminants which could affect the adhesive and new flooring.

NEVER SAND OLD VINYL FLOORS FROM ANY FLOOR MANUFACTURER, IF YOU THINK THE FLOOR WAS INSTALLED PRIOR TO 1990, IT MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS!

STORAGE

Ensure the floor covering is always stored on a flat floor. The floor covering should be stored and allowed to condition on site for a period of not less than 24hrs or until such time as the product has achieved an ambient room temperature range of 18–26 degrees C. If the flooring has been previously stored in cold conditions below 10 degrees C then removal from the boxes on site will assist with acclimatization. In areas that do not have temperature control methods particular attention should be given. Portable heating or cooling devices should be used to achieve optimum installation ranges, including dehumidifiers if needed. Areas of the subfloor with direct sunlight should not be exposed for 24hrs prior, during and after installation, this is to prevent thermally induced dimensional changes of the product, this is particularly important with property facing east or west or with windows and doors in those directions.

Note: Without such temperature controls at this stage, subsequent failure of the subfloor, underlayment or underlay and floor covering may occur.
ROOM TEMPERATURE IS IMPORTANT!

CHECKING OF MATERIAL

Before leaving the factory, the flooring undergoes careful inspection to ensure high quality standards. Even so, 100% elimination of defects can not be guaranteed. Therefore, before processing, always check the materials provided for visual defects. Complaints for obvious visual defects will be dealt with only before processing work has begun. Once work has begun, the only complaints that we are prepared to consider are initially concealed defects. Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of both the subfloor and material prior to work commencing.

Laying Plan

For an optimum distribution and minimum loss from cutting we recommend a laying plan be done prior to work commencing.

With planks we recommend that end joints be staggered to create a natural effect, the minimum stagger should not be less than 200mm. With Tiles we recommend either a 50% brick-bond design or a stagger not less than 200mm. While it is possible to install Tiles in a 'grid' pattern we would advise against as this type installation can be visually affected by walls which run out, creating an overall poor visual effect.

TENSION OF THE FLOOR COVERING AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS DURING INSTALLATION

In order for the flooring to be tension free, the planks/tiles must be stored in the relevant area for at least 24hrs in order for them to equilibrate with the temperature and conditions of the area. The ideal installation temperature is 20 degrees C. and the atmospheric humidity should not exceed 70%. If these conditions are not met, this will have consequences for the flooring. If the temperatures are too low and the atmospheric humidity too high it becomes more difficult to fit the covering and the adhesive bonds very poorly. If the temperatures are too

high, especially with very low RH % the glue time is dramatically reduced and after installation shrinkage can occur.

PREVENTING COLOUR DIFFERENCES

Always lay the room with material from the same batch only. If multiple separate areas are to be installed and the same batch for all is not available, it is acceptable to fit separate areas in different batches, however pay particular attention NOT to mix batches.

Our products are NOT pattern matched, however some designs can be heavier than others, so to prevent heavy and light colour shading areas, the planks/tiles should be unboxed and if required, shuffled. Alternating the direction may be required to avoid pattern repeats. Pattern repeats are more common on in-registered embossed (IRE) planks, this is due to the manufacturing process and is industry normal.

APPLY THE ADHESIVE

Only high quality, solvent-free dispersion adhesives for pvc floor covering can be used, please follow the instructions by the adhesive company, like Mapei, Dunlop, Ardex etc.

Lay the planks/tiles into the adhesive immediately after spreading, do not allow the adhesive to 'tack-up' or skin, the higher the room temperature the quicker you will need to work, alternatively spread less adhesive.

Do not slide the planks/tiles into place as this will displace the adhesive, instead drop them into place and make minor adjustments, planks/tiles should be fitted neat on all edges, but do not put excessive pressure on edges otherwise peaking could occur.

Once the flooring is in place use a hand roller across the whole surface in both directions of each plank/tile.

Once the flooring has 'tacked-up' roll the floor with a heavy roller, any weight between 45kg - 68kg is suitable. This process should be repeated again after another 60 minutes.

Any adhesive contaminating the face of the floor covering shall be removed as work proceeds, care being taken to avoid smearing adjacent surfaces. Any surplus adhesive shall be removed from the surface while still wet with a suitable cloth and clean water.

Handy Hint: Dilute a little floor stripper in water to use as cleaning solution while working.

If any glue resin needs to be cleaned once fully cured (approximately 24–72hrs), then a basic floor stripper for PVC flooring can be used along with a green scotch brite pad.

RECOMMENDED ADHESIVES

Hard-set acrylic adhesive

Hard set acrylic adhesive is the best adhesive to use in normal working conditions for both domestic and commercial installations. Apply the adhesive with a 1.5x1.5x1.5mm notched trowel. Do not use old worn trowels.

Some acrylic adhesives have pressure sensitive properties, these have to be left to semi-cure to a dry-tack prior to installing planks/tiles, unless the professional installer has a specific reason and previous experience with this type of adhesive and the work site suits then use standard hard set acrylic adhesive. Products installed with pressure sensitive adhesives can receive traffic immediately after installation, however loading of the floor, heavy furniture and machinery should be avoided for 24hrs. These type of adhesives are more difficult to work with and require a lot more skill.

High temperature adhesives

High temperature adhesives should be used for floors subject to regular direct sunlight, under floor heating systems or prolonged temperatures greater than 28 degrees C. These type glues are also more suited for

higher RH%. Please refer to the manufacturers recommended instructions. The temperatures required for this type of adhesive are still 18 – 26 degree C, for 24hrs before, during and after installation.

Wet cleaning should be left 24hrs after installation.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Congratulations, you have just installed ELSA luxury vinyl flooring. Your floor has been manufactured to the highest standards and quality and will provide you with many years of service if you follow our simple steps.

Firstly, all exposed edges of resilient flooring or edges abutting other floor covering materials shall be protected by means of diminishing strips or other suitable mouldings.

When installation is completed all scrap materials and debris shall be removed from the floor and the floor shall be swept or vacuum cleaned to remove all dust and debris.

After this we recommend a final clean up of the flooring. This can be done with a quality liquid vinyl cleaner to remove residue and factory film for the flooring, a surface polish with single disc type machine can be done with white pad (400prm minimum).

All furniture legs and feet should be installed with proper floor protectors, high quality felt is preferred. Protectors will allow fixed leg chairs to move more easily over the floor without scuffing or scratching. Do not use rubber casters or rubber backed floor mats on resilient flooring.

Do not allow high heeled shoes that do not have proper tips on the heels, it may result in severe scratching to the surface. The same is true for pets with unclipped nails.

To avoid yellowing from asphalt driveways or parking lots, always use non-rubber backed doormats of a suitable size at entrance ways.

To keep your floor looking its best, dust mop or vacuum your floor at least twice a week. Do it more often on floors with heavy traffic or subject to commercial use. Do not use cleaners with wax ingredients as this may cause the floor to become slippery or damage the finish. Simply sweep the floor as often as needed and wet clean with a suitable routine cleaner for resilient flooring.

As ELSA luxury vinyl flooring has a polyurethane (PU) surface treatment, the application of liquid floor protector/sealer is not required unless desired.

If accidental fine scratches occur due to the result of normal domestic or commercial use, then it is only recommended to fill them with one or two applications of a good vinyl floor finisher.

Always clean up food spills as quickly as possible with a quality liquid vinyl cleaner. Make sure the cleaner is general purpose and NON-abrasive. We do not recommend powdered cleaners. Shoe scuff marks can also be cleaned like this and if needed use a green scotch brite pad.

If accidental deep scratches appear on your floor then it might be necessary to replace such damaged planks. Please seek the expertise of a professional for this work.

We do not recommend the use of steam mops as the very high temperatures created underneath may affect the adhesives. Warm water mopping is fine.

REMINDERS

Please keep your original sales receipt. Please keep a record of the colour, type and batch number of the flooring (this can be done by removing one of the end labels provided on each box).

Please keep a record of when the product was installed, temperatures on site and the person who fitted the product. Please keep a record of the glue used and a record of the tests carried out to check the subfloor.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

This warranty covers the product from manufacturing defects and wearing out for the periods listed. It also covers delaminating and fading in normal residential and or commercial use. This warranty shall comply with current Consumer Law where applicable. This warranty is in lieu of any other warranties expressed or implied.

This warranty covers the affect areas only and is limited to the replacement of new flooring material of similar colour, pattern and quality to replace the defective area. Reasonable labor costs can be claimed for if a professional installed the flooring originally, this original installation must be within 5 years of date of original purchase.

Warranty claims must be made in writing, following our claims procedure within 28 days of noticing the defect. A form is available upon request, detailed descriptions, proof of purchase, photos and sample may be requested. A site visit may also be required to verify details.

Exclusions

The following are **not** covered by this warranty:

The use of this product outside or in exterior locations.

Minor shading, colour or texture differences between samples and delivered product. Samples include but are not limited to, display stands, brochures, websites, panels and swatches, while every effort is made to avoid this, printed material and monitors cannot precisely show the product and lighting affect colours dramatically.

Damage caused by fire, intentional abuse, cuts, tears, gauges or damage caused by heels, pets or furniture. Damage caused by vacuum beater bars, indentations or damage caused by improper rolling loads or chairs. Damaged caused by exposure to natural light source.

Defects arising from poor installation and or subfloor preparation not carried out to AS 1884-2012. which include but are not limited to, excessive unevenness, incorrect glue, damp subfloors, objects protruding, like nail or staple heads, gaps in underlayment seams causing 'peaking', failure of the underlayment, visible trowel marks, staining from contaminates etc.

ELSA luxury vinyl flooring recommends that any defects thought to be related to poor installation or the subfloor first be addressed with the original installer or retailer.

Minor scratches or scuffing, a dirty appearance, particularly on darker, solid colours is not covered; these colours naturally show more scratches and require more maintenance.

The wear warranty is defined as 100% wear layer removal so the printed design or pattern is altered over a minimum of 1% of the total installation.

The above described warranty is applicable to the original purchaser only and is non-transferable.

TECHINICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Slip Resistance	Please see website for slip tests
Light Stability (UV Index)	ISO 105 B02: 6 or above
Wear Group Classification	EN649: Class 33, 42 = heavy domestic, heavy commercial, Moderate industrial
Abrasion Resistance	EN660-2 (Volume loss): < 6.94mm ³ /100r
Castor Chair Resistance	EN425: Pass
Chemical Resistance	EN423: Pass
Toxic elements test	EN71 Part3: Pass (No lead or heavy metals)
Fire resistance	EN13501-1: Bfl-S1
Factory standards	ISO14001, SGS, TUV (LGA)
Sound Reduction	DIN52210. 4db
Dimensional stability	EN434: Pass
Thickness of wear layer	EN429:1993: Pass
Tile size	EN427: Pass
Total weight	EN430: Pass
Impact resistance	EN13329: Pass
Residual indentation	EN433:1994: Pass
Total thickness	EN428: Pass
Flexibility	EN435: Pass
Formaldehyde emission HCHO	EN717-1 E1 Pass

PRODUCT DATA

Dimensions (Plank)	1227mm x 187mm x 2.5mm
Wear Layer & Type	0.55mm - PU with AO
Wear surface guarantee	20Yr domestic - 10Yr general commercial
Finish(s)	Barnside/Handscraped/IRE/Random
Core material	Virgin stock PVC high purity
Beveled Edges	Yes - all sides 20 degrees