

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

IMPORTANT NOTICE

National Select Floors recommends installation by a professional flooring contractor or skilled tradesperson, ensuring compliance with Australian Standards for flooring installations. All installations must also follow National Select Floors' installation guidelines. If you have any concerns regarding the installation process, please contact your reseller.

Before installation, verify that the goods received match the correct product, codes, range, size, and colour. If the product appears doubtful in appearance, **DO NOT** install it. Instead, report the issue to your flooring reseller for review. Once installed, all goods are considered checked and accepted by the installer and/or homeowner.

National Select Floors assumes no responsibility for any costs or warranty claims related to the installation of defective or incorrect products.

National Select Floors will not be responsible for issues arising from:

- Insufficient subfloor preparation, including uneven surfaces, moisture issues, or structural deficiencies.
- Unsatisfactory installation methods that do not comply with Australian Standards or National Select Floors' installation guidelines.
- Failure to use a required moisture barrier, which may prevent natural expansion movement and lead to damage from Alkaline Hydrolysis (high alkalinity levels) when installed over concrete.
- Any moisture-related issues.

By proceeding with installation, the installer and/or homeowner acknowledges full responsibility for ensuring proper subfloor conditions, material suitability, and compliance with installation guidelines.

KEY INSTALLATION POINTS

- **Installation:** Floating method only.
- **Expansion tolerance (raft size):** Up to 10 m (L) x 6 m (W).
- **Use:** Indoor flooring only; not a substitute for a moisture barrier.
- **Levels:** Suitable for below, equal, or above ground.
- **Wastage allowance:** Standard: +10%; Herringbone: +20%
- **Heavy fixtures:** Install around fixed items (e.g., kitchen islands, cabinetry).
- **Not suitable:** Wet or humid areas (e.g., bathrooms, laundries, saunas).
- **Prohibited subfloors:** Do not install over existing flooring, including carpet, hybrid, laminate, loose lay, or perimeter fastened vinyl.
- **Requirement:** A 200µm polyethylene (PE) film must be installed for subfloors.

JOB SITE DELIVERY AND STORAGE

Before installation, verify that all boxes contain the correct product, codes, range, and colour. Store cartons in a dry, covered area, away from direct sunlight or adverse conditions. Flooring packs should always be stacked with the bottom of the box facing down, never on their sides, vertically, or leaning against a wall. Take care to protect the corners of the boxes from damage.

ACCLIMATISATION

Acclimatisation allows the flooring to adjust to indoor temperature before installation. Keep flooring in unopened boxes for at least 48 hours in the installation area.

Do not open the box ends for acclimatisation, as this may affect board end joint tolerances. Flooring packs should remain sealed until the day of installation. If inspection is required, open the box, then retape it and continue acclimatisation.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The subfloor is the surface on which the flooring will be installed and must be properly prepared before installation. It must be flat, dry, sound, and secure. Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from dirt and debris. The installer is responsible for verifying that these conditions are met before proceeding with the installation.

FLOOR LEVELLING

- The subfloor should be relatively flat, with a maximum allowable variation of 3 mm over a 3 metre span (valleys/peaks).
- Floors must be leveled to meet this specification before installation.
- Fill depressed areas with floor leveling compounds and sand or grind down raised areas as needed.
- When using leveling compounds and primers, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure all leveling compounds, primers, adhesives, and moisture barriers are compatible, preferably from the same manufacturer, to maintain warranties.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

Concrete subfloors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for at least 90 days prior to installation. Test the concrete subfloor for moisture content before installation. Slabs should have a moisture content of less than 4% by impedance meter or below 85% in slab relative humidity.

Stonegrove Luxury Hybrids have a built in foam underlay and can be installed directly on the concrete slab. **A 200µm polyethylene (PE) film must be installed and lap jointed on top of the concrete slab. This also applies to floors laid on plywood over concrete slabs.** The film helps prevent friction between the flooring and the subfloor, as well as the buildup of Alkaline Hydrolysis (high alkalinity levels), specifically in concrete.

WOODEN SUBFLOORS

A wooden subfloor may consist of timber boards or sheet flooring, such as particleboard or plywood, with typical moisture content between 9% and 13%. Wooden subfloors must be structurally sound and securely fastened to supporting beams with screws or nails. **A 200µm polyethylene (PE) film must be installed and lap jointed on top of the subfloor. This film will help prevent friction between the flooring and the subfloor.**

For subfloors on lower levels with soil beneath, greater consideration is required to prevent rising moisture. A site assessment of the subfloor space is necessary, as damp soil and inadequate ventilation may lead to moisture related problems with the installed floor.

TILED SUBFLOORS

Check to ensure the subfloor is sufficiently flat and free of moisture. Grout lines must be filled if they are wider than 3 mm or deeper than 2 mm. **A 200µm polyethylene (PE) film must be installed and lap jointed on top of the subfloor. This film will help prevent friction between the flooring and the subfloor.**

EXPANSION GAPS, JOINTS & TRIMS

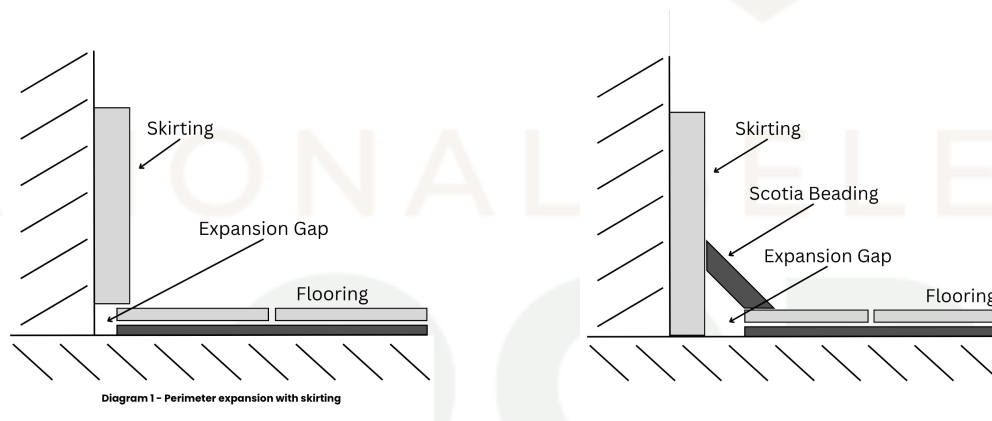
Hybrid flooring can be affected by factors such as changes in relative humidity and daily temperature fluctuations. As a result, flooring may expand or contract, and allowances must be made for this movement. Perimeter expansion gaps and control joints are essential.

For larger floor areas, expansion trims may be required to reduce movement pressure and allow for expansion and contraction within individual sections. The installer should assess the best options based on the layout and room size.

Recommended expansion tolerances or raft size:

- Lengthwise: 10 metres
- Widthwise: 6 metres

Allow a minimum of 10mm expansion gaps around wall perimeters, vertical fixtures, pipes, pillars, island benches, and where adjoining different floor types.



Aluminium trims can be used as expansion trims and control joints.

Skirting boards and scotia should be fixed only to the wall or cabinets, not directly to the installed floor.

Do not apply sealant at the junction between the floor and any vertical surface (e.g., benches, skirting boards or scotia).

BEFORE INSTALLATION

The room temperature during installation should be between 10°C and 30°C, with relative humidity between 45% and 65%. Flooring must be installed in a temperature controlled environment. Install flooring under ample lighting to easily identify any imperfections, such as sheen differences or visible defects, both before and during installation.

Ideally, remove skirting boards and reinstall after installation. If removal is not possible, use scotia or aluminium trims to cover expansion gaps.

Undercut door jambs, allowing for a 10 mm expansion gap.

All carpets, carpet pads, and carpet tacks must be removed. Check for any nails or obstructions that may affect the flooring installation.

Before installation, a 200µm polyethylene (PE) film must be placed over all subfloors to create a low friction surface and act as a moisture barrier, ensuring optimal flooring performance. Failure to use the required moisture barrier may lead to product failure and void any applicable warranties.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Circular Saw or Flooring Cutter, Multi Tool, Rubber Mallet, Tapping Block, Pull Bar, Space Bar, Spacers, Ruler, Pencil, Safety Glasses, Broom or Vacuum Cleaner, and Hardwood Floor Cleaner.

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDE

Subfloor Preparation

Ensure the subfloor is properly prepared as per the **subfloor Preparation** section prior to installation.

1. Starting the Installation

- Position the first board with the grooved side facing the wall from which you are starting.
- Place spacing wedges along the starting wall, leaving a 10 mm expansion gap between the wall and the first row of boards.

2. Ensuring Alignment

- Snap a chalk line from the chosen starting wall to verify straightness and alignment.
- Starting straight is crucial to avoid visual misalignment caused by non parallel or bowed walls, and to ensure that the boards adjacent to the walls are cut as wide as possible.

3. Laying the Boards

- Floors are typically laid lengthwise down hallways for the best visual effect. Ensure the floor runs parallel to hallway walls.
- Be mindful of control joints and expansion joints during planning.
- Begin at a corner of the starting wall and lay the boards row by row.

4. Staggering the Joints

- Start each new row with a leftover piece from the previous row or with a board at least 450 mm shorter or longer than the board at the same position in the prior row.
- Stagger end joints by at least 450 mm between adjacent rows.
- Avoid a brick pattern; random staggering provides a more natural and appealing look.

5. Final Row Installation

- Upon reaching the opposite wall, the final row will likely require trimming. Cut boards lengthwise as needed while maintaining the 10 mm expansion gap.
- Remove the tongue edges if present on the boards adjacent to the wall.

6. Securing the Final Row

- Use wedges and a spacing bar to fit the last row into place.
- Use protective blocks or flooring offcuts to avoid damage to the boards and walls during this process.

7. Finishing Touches

- Install skirting boards and scotia trims by attaching them to the wall or cabinetry only.
- Do not fix scotia directly to the floor, as the floor must be able to expand and contract freely.

INITIAL CARE (WITHIN 24 HOURS OF INSTALLATION)

- Sweep or vacuum thoroughly using soft bristles.
- Be cautious when placing furniture and appliances on the new flooring.
- Avoid dragging heavy objects or furniture; use protective material like cardboard and lift while moving.
- For heavy items, use smooth, non-staining fabric faced furniture sliders or move them over plywood or cardboard.
- Cover furniture legs with felt protectors to prevent damage.

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

To maintain warranty coverage and ensure efficient service in the event of a claim, homeowners must:

- Install the flooring according to Stonegrove Luxury Hybrids Installation Guidelines.
- Use only appropriate and safe cleaning products.
- Keep at least five planks of flooring after installation for future repairs or testing.
- Retain the original sales receipt or documentation as proof of purchase, including product details and installation date.

WARRANTY

Please refer to the warranty details on our website for full terms and conditions.

NATIONAL SELECT
FLOORS