

HYBRID FLOORING – All Ranges Wide Plank - ANGLE/ANGLE & 5g CLICK - Installation Guidelines

General: Please read the following instructions thoroughly before installing the floor. **Specific assembly instructions are located from page 5 onwards, for Angle/Angle or 5g (plastic tongue) depending on product type.**

This document covers our Wide Plank ranges, **Aspire, Easi-Plank, Hydroplank, Iconic & Lifestyle** featuring either an **Angle / Angle profile or a 5g click profile** for floating installation only. As with all flooring products careful attention to the installation and basic floor care guidelines must be followed to maximise the performance benefits of the product. **An expanded Hybrid floor care document is available on our website for reading or downloading.**

Hybrid floors are considered highly water resistant for interior use, however that does not mean they can be installed as a substitute for a moisture barrier. Prolonged exposure to concrete vapour and moisture from below or above the surface can damage the flooring regardless of its waterproof attributes. Subfloor preparation and installation suitability tests must be performed as per our installation guidelines to support warranty provisions.

The use of 200µm Polyethylene (PE) Film is required over all sub-floors prior to installation, please read installation and floor care notes prior to commencement. For claim inspections we will require all details of the installation method, therefore a simple photographic file will make this process much easier should a claim arise.

Note: for use in wet areas, check with local Building Code requirements to confirm suitability for installation in **bathrooms, laundry & powder rooms.** In some jurisdictions local Building Authorities will not certify floating installations in wet areas, it's vital you confirm prior to install, **do not assume the retailer or contractor has checked for compliance.**

Hybrid flooring is considered water resistant for interior use only, it should not be installed in pool areas, saunas, conservatories, or exposed sunrooms where heat and high UV exposure may reach extremes. Hybrid flooring should be installed by a professional flooring contractor or skilled tradesperson; it is not a simple DIY project. The installation process and method selected is the responsibility of the contractor/owner. You must be satisfied that the contractor is qualified to conduct your site installation. If you have any concerns please contact your reseller.

Hybrid installations require more sensitive tapping around the end & side joints compared to Laminate products and should be handled with care when the locking system is being engaged. The installation should be conducted with due care, avoid any overuse of mallet hammering to the end & side joint locking system: excessive handling will damage the joint locking system; this will not be covered by warranty.

Set up & planning items required.



Be Smart, work safely - Hearing Protection, Safety Glasses, N95 Dust Mask, Tape Measure, Guillotine, Jigsaw or fine-tooth Power Saw, Utility Knife, Straight Edge, Tapping Block, Rubber Mallet, Pull Bar, 8 -10mm Spacers, T-Square, Broom / Vacuum and a Hand Roller to smooth edge joins if necessary. 200µm Polyethylene (PE) Film.

HYBRID FLOORING FLOATING INSTALLATION - ANGLE/ANGLE & 5g CLICK LOCKING PROFILE

Maximum Raft Size: Aspire & Easi-Plank - 15m, length & 15m, width.

Hydroplank, Lifestyle & Iconic - 10m, length & 10m, width.

Initial considerations:

- **The floor should be installed in accordance with AS/NZS 1884-2021 – Resilient sheets and tiles – Installation Practices.** Failure to follow these guidelines covering sub-floor preparation and installation will void the warranty. Please familiarise yourself with these important considerations.
- Thorough planning prior to installation will assist in determining requirements for room to room and perimeter expansion. Trim placement & colour options should be confirmed prior installation. Scotia is available if required. **Always check that the floor product & colour is as specified.**
- **At site, store cartons placed on a flat, dry area away from extreme temperatures or moisture.**

During & post installation avoid direct exposure to sunlight and heat for prolonged periods, discoloration & plank deformity may occur. During peak sunlight hours you must use sun blinds, tinting or similar window & door protection, this will minimise the UV bleaching & heat damage that can occur if left unprotected. To minimise shade and batch variation, mix and install planks from several cartons during the install process.

- Inspect all planks for damage before installing. If you have any concerns about the product fit or finish, please contact your reseller immediately. **DO NOT INSTALL DEFECTIVE PLANKS. Claims will not be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size and or installed.**
- Subfloor patching/levelling must be completely dry prior to installation, **refer to the manufacturer's guidelines.**
- This product is designed as a floating installation only, (except for stair treads, refer pg. 8). Installation on a structurally sound, clean, flat & dry substrate, **raft size & overall installation requirements must be followed to comply with warranty provisions.**

Fixed cabinetry & heavy fixed objects should not be placed on top of a floating installation. Kitchen island benches will require the floor to be cut in and around the cabinetry to avoid restricting the normal movement associated with floating installations. Heavy items such as a billiard table, fish tank or filling cabinets will restrict floor movement, do not place heavy fixed items on a Hybrid floating installation.

Suitability over Sub-Floor Heating & close proximity to heat sources.

Our Hybrid flooring products are suitable for installation with **Hydronic 'In-Slab' under-floor heating systems only.** The Hybrid installation must be installed as per the heating system manufacturer's installation and operating guidelines. No other floor heating system or method will be supported by our warranty. **Hydronic 'In-Screed' heating is not covered by our warranty.** All heating & cooling systems require strict attention to operating & installation guidelines when used with Hybrid Flooring. **Photograph & record all procedures.**

Do not install a Hybrid floor in close proximity to heat exposure from open fires or enclosed heating units. This will result in plank deformity, and gapping resulting in unrepairable damage voiding your warranty.

HYBRID FLOORING FLOATING INSTALLATION - ANGLE/ANGLE & 5g CLICK LOCKING PROFILE

Maximum Raft Size: Aspire & Easi-Plank - 15m, length & 15m, width.

Hydroplank, Lifestyle & Iconic - 10m, length & 10m, width.

Preparation of sub-floor.

All subfloors must be clean, flat, & structurally sound (no squeaks or movement), flat - 3mm over 3.0m diameter. Nails & screws below surface and grout lines need to be sound, and not > 2 mm below tile surface. **Sub-floor preparation and inspection is a crucial part of a successful installation. Photograph & record all procedures.**

Underlay - Single Residential Installations.

The underlay does not contain a PE moisture barrier film therefore you must cover all types of sub-floors with 200µm Polythene Film (PE) prior to installation. The 200µm Polythene Film will assist in reducing slab curing vapour & moisture transmission from below the surface. Additionally, it reduces floor friction when movement occurs. Seasonal change may occur depending on ground movement, air temperature & humidity levels within the interior & exterior environment. You must conduct moisture tests before installation, refer later in the guidelines.

Tape all PE Film joins to retard concrete vapour & moisture ingress from below the surface.

For detached residential installations an additional acoustic underlay is not required however the 200µm Polythene Film must always be in place before the plank installation to act as a moisture membrane.

Underlay - Mutli-Residential Installations, (may differ from single residential installations). 200µm Polythene Film must always be in place before the plank installation regardless of acoustic underlay requirements.

Due to existing building design or Body Corporate requirements multi-residential installations may require additional sound dampening to meet strict Occupancy or Body Corporate requirements.

If our published Hybrid acoustic performance does not satisfy the buildings acoustic requirements additional sound dampening maybe required to meet building code or body corporate specifications. In these circumstances a rigid (dense) acoustic matting can be used in addition to the attached acoustic pad to meet a specified acoustic outcome.

Typically, a rigid underlay, Cork or Rubber acoustic matting between, 1.5mm > 3mm maximum is suitable. **Our warranty will not apply if a thicker underlay is used.** Check with an acoustic specialist for an appropriate product and installation guidelines. **DO NOT USE a soft cell or expanded foam underlay it will void the warranty.**

INSTALLATION OVER – TIMBER STRIP / WOOD PANEL SUB - FLOORS

CAUTION: Some types of fixings, such as common steel nails and certain solvent-based construction adhesives may cause discoloration transferring through the Hybrid flooring, remove/clean sub-floor and avoid these materials to stop surface discoloration occurring. **Note:** Product odours may be present when cartons are initially opened, **only** install in a well-ventilated area. The use of protective eye & dust/odour mitigation masks are necessary throughout the installation process, be smart, work safely.

- 1. Subfloor wood-based types - existing Timber Strip Flooring, Plywood, OSB, Particleboard (PB), and Masonite.** Substrate must be structurally sound and secure (no movement). Screw fix any loose or squeaking planks or panels, flush any protruding fixings, and make sure the floor is level and dry (less than 14% MC for timber or wood-based panels). **Squeaky or noisy sub-floors will remain the same if structural issues are not addressed, a new Hybrid floor will not reduce faults or noise from a problematic subfloor.**

INSTALLATION OVER – TIMBER STRIP / WOOD PANEL SUBFLOORS continued:

2. All wood-based floor surfaces shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign matter such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be rigid, secure, and free of flaking or powdery substances. Sand all surfaces and edges on wood-based panels such as plywood or particleboard. Level floor, if necessary – **3mm over a 3m diameter. Use 5mm Masonite or similar rigid floor panels over timber strip floors if a level surface cannot be achieved. Refer AS/NZS 1884-2021.**
3. If required add additional fixings to adequately secure an existing substrate. Where possible, examine sub-floor to check underfloor conditions for high moisture or structural defects. For new substrate material fasten and secure according to panel manufacturing guidelines or to meet local building regulations. Lightly sand all timber surface areas and importantly joints on particleboard flooring. **Refer AS/NZS 1884-2021.**
4. **Important requirement for Timber Strip, Particle Board (PB) & OSB sub-floors. Cover with 200µm PE film over the entire surface.** Securely tape all joints. This method is to reduce friction & jamming making sure the acoustic underlay does not adhere or get jammed to the sub-floor if building movement occurs, the PE Film also minimises moisture ingress from below the surface.
5. **Do not use additional underlay** for single residential installations it will compromise the click system and void the warranty. **Refer pg. 3 Underlay & Acoustic installs Residential and Multi-Residential.**

INSTALLATION OVER – CONCRETE SLAB SUBFLOORS

1. **For concrete slab installations.** The slab must be dry & flat, **3mm over a 3m diameter.** Check for moisture level range, 2.5 – 3.5% in a 24-hr. period. The use of an Impedance meter for determining slab Relative Humidity (RH) is generally considered the easiest way to provide random measurements. Check slab perimeters, doorways, and areas such as garage entry to interior and patio openings. This will quickly assist in determining suitability for installation. As a guide, ASTM F2170 test method is recommended. **Photograph & record all procedures.**
2. **Do not install over concrete sub-floors with a history of high moisture conditions.** Ph level of concrete should be between 5-9. **The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry for installation remains with the floor installer. Keep site data records & photographs to support warranty provisions.**
3. **Install 200µm PE film over the entire surface, securely tape all joints.** This method reduces friction & jamming making sure the underlay does not get jammed to the sub-floor if building movement occurs, importantly, it will also assist in reducing concrete vapour & moisture ingress from below the surface.

Radiant Heat: warranty covers Hydronic 'In-slab' only – You must follow all heating system install & operating guidelines as provided by the system manufacturer. As a general comment only - In-Slab Hydronic is the only type of radiant heat system supported by our warranty. The system must be on and operational for at least 2 weeks prior to installation to reduce residual moisture within the concrete slab. Three (3) days prior to installation lower the temperature to 19°C. After installation gradually increase the temperature in increments of 1°C to avoid overheating. Maximum floor temperature should never exceed 27°C. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is required to avoid overheating. Treat each installation as a unique event and strictly follow the systems install & operating guidelines. Photograph & record all procedures. In-Screed Heating or Electric Heat Blankets are not covered by our warranty.

INSTALLATION OVER OTHER EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

- Hybrid flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings provided that the existing floor surface is structurally sound, clean, flat, and dry. **No loose grout, tiles, or planks. Tile grout maximum depth <2 mm below tile surface. Remember a poor condition subfloor = a poor outcome if not repaired.**
- **Do not install over Loose Lay, Pressure Sensitive (PS) glued Vinyl, or cushioned Vinyl. Hybrid floors can be installed over permanently fixed (Hard-Set) Vinyl sheet or plank floors. Existing HS Vinyl should not exceed more than 1 layer.** To check Vinyl flooring simply try to peel or pick up the existing vinyl floor, if it lifts then it is not suitable for installation, removal required. Soft underlayment and loose substrates will compromise the locking ability. **Do not install Hybrid flooring over any type of carpet or carpet tile.**
- **Do not install over sub-floors with a history of high moisture conditions.** Moisture Content (MC) of concrete slab should be approx. 2.5 – 3.5% & Timber max. 14%. Remember, it's the installers responsibility to keep relevant subfloor moisture test records (photographs) for site related conditions. **It's simple, photograph & keep job test records. No records = No Product Warranty.**

HYBRID - ANGLE / ANGLE & 5g CLICK FLOATING INSTALLATION METHOD

Maximum Raft Size: Aspire & Easi-Plank - 15m, length & 15m, width.

Hydroplank, Lifestyle & Iconic - 10m, length & 10m, width.

- **Hybrid plank flooring is designed to be installed using the floating method.** Never permanently secure the planks to the subfloor when using a floating installation method. **Do not install heavy cabinets, kitchen island benches or fixed heavy objects on top of the flooring.**
- **8 - 10mm expansion space is required for perimeters on general installations that fall within the nominated raft sizes.** Larger installs over the products nominated raft size will require additional expansion capacity to cater for the room layout. You must allow for room-to-room transmission trims and longitudinal transmission joints to cater for the normal creep and racking that occurs within the overall building structure.
- **Compartmentalising each room or area is strongly recommended.**
- **Long hallways & open plan. Extra expansion & compartmentalisation is required for single hallway installs when the hallway runs into open floor spaces (e.g. living rooms & kitchen). You must use a transition trim to break up the install where the hallway ends, and the open living / kitchen area commences.** This step will improve the performance of the install allowing for each area to float independently of the other area of install. Hallways should be installed in the lengthways direction for both structural and aesthetic reasons. Location planning of trims is vital and should be discussed prior to installation. For larger room areas allow for extra expansion at perimeter, alloy trims or scotia can cover the perimeter gap if this step is required.
- A range of colour matched trims and scotia are available to make the floor installation as seamless as possible. Expansion & room to room transition breaks are necessary and help the floor perform as intended. **Floating floors require expansion & transition trims, leave them out and you will void the warranty.**
- For existing dwellings if you intend to keep the original skirting you can undercut the skirting & door jambs to cater for expansion provisions, alternately Scotia can be fastened to the existing skirting. **Do not fasten skirting, scotia and or transition strips to the planks. The floor must be able to move without restrictions.**

PLANK ASSEMBLY: Similar procedures apply to both Click Profile systems, **Angle /Angle** requires an angle alignment and manoeuvre into the lock profile. **Ideally install short end first**, the **5g** uses the same method for the long sides and for the short end the plastic tongue requires alignment and then a fold down action to engage the plastic tongue.

Aspire, Easi-Plank, Hydroplank, Lifestyle & Iconic

Tip for angle/angle assembly: on the long side and end joint this is best done with a low angle of the plank and maintain pressure into the side seam as you rotate the plank to the subfloor. A small amount of pressure is required to seat the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove. **Do not excessively hammer joints & edges as this may result in micro-fractures and joint failure in-service.**

Angle & Rotate Down.



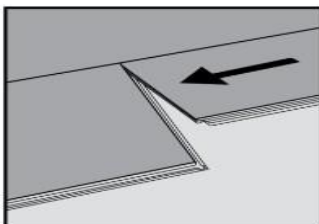
Angle & Rotate Down.



Hydroplank 5g product, a 5g icon will be noted on the end of carton.

Tip for 5g Plastic Tongue assembly: the black plastic tongue will feature on the end joint only. Simply align the end joints of the adjoining planks then fold down to engage the click position with slight pressure or soft tap on the surface to push flat, you should feel the tongue lock into the groove. A small amount of pressure is required to seat the plastic tongue into the groove. Make sure end joints remain flush and engaged as install continues, check joint alignment as you install. On the long side angle and rotate the side profile into the groove. **Do not remove the 5g end joint plastic tongue, (unless fitting under a jamb etc. refer special instructions below).** **Do not excessively hammer side or end joints as this may result in micro-fractures and joint failure in-service.**

Flush ends & Fold Down.

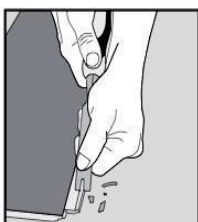


Angle & Rotate Down.



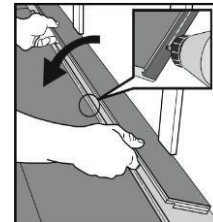
Special installations, Small plank widths & tight spaces under door thresholds or wall ends.

Diagram 1



Joining at short ends first length cut planks. Cut the tongue at the same time you cut the length of the plank and install as displayed. **Note that the smallest width of a plank is 50mm at the last row. If not, the first-row width must be adjusted.** This can easily be calculated when measuring the room width before installation. Cut off the locking element with a chisel, apply **Super Glue**, push the planks together. Place spacers between the last panel and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue.

Diagram 2



PLANK ASSEMBLY CONTINUED:

1. Before starting the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring & trim placements. Good planning will prevent or minimise narrow plank widths at wall junctures or short length pieces at the end of rows. **Minimum plank length install, should not be less than 30cm. Refer Image 2.**
2. As with all plank products, install the planks parallel to the longest exterior wall and then determine if the starter row will need to be cut. If the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge shows towards the wall. **Image 1.**
3. Installation should start from the left side of the room working to the right when in front of the planks or facing the starting wall. **Image 1. Expansion spacers 8 – 10 mm from the wall, (or greater if larger areas).**

Image 1.

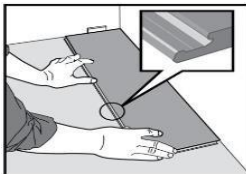


Image 2.

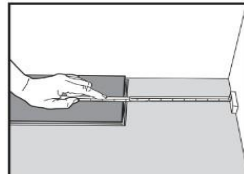


Image 3.

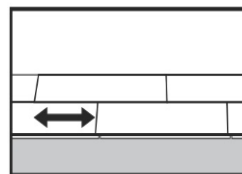
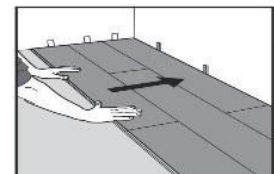


Image 4.



4. **Check squareness, straightness & spacers regularly, it is easy to repair work after a row or two, it is much harder to rectify problems after the install is finished. Image 4.**
5. Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank or folding down if it's a 5g profile. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank. Maintain expansion gap must be, **8 – 10 mm from the wall. Image 4.** Start second row by cutting a plank to the desired length. Remember planks **must not be shorter than 30cm** to achieve the best visual appearance. **Image 2.**
6. Install the next plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the first plank. This is best done with a low angle of the plank. Maintain pressure into the side seam as you angle the rotate the plank down to the subfloor. Continue aligning the planks so that the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row. Working from the end seam, at a low angle, insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. A small amount of pressure is required to seat the tongue into the groove as you rotate or fold down the long edge & short end.
7. **Remember for the 5g plastic tongue lock into the end groove. Do not excessively hammer (mallet) end joints as this may result in micro-fractures and end joint failure in-service. Slight tapping on edge or end maybe necessary to flush the joints if they are not aligned. Use a small plank offcut as a tapping block. Do not remove the 5g Click tongue.**
8. Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. **Do not align end joints of parallel rows, minimum distance should be 30cm to improve stability and visual appearance, refer Image 3.**

PLANK ASSEMBLY CONTINUED:

9. Cut the last plank in the first row and leave an expansion gap of 8-10mm. The leftover plank can be used to start the third row if it is a minimum 30cm long.
10. Continue installing planks and make sure to achieve a random/staggered appearance with end pieces of minimum 30cm. Check that all planks are fully engaged; if slight gapping is found, the gap can be tapped together using a tapping block or a scrap of flooring to avoid damaging the planks. **Do not excessively hammer the joint together, replace plank if the joint or surface is damaged.**
11. **When fitting under door skirtings, if necessary, a flat pull bar can be used to assist in locking the planks. If the angle joint cannot be connected trim the joint first & glue before sliding into place.**
12. When fitting around obstacles or into irregular spaces, planks can be cut accurately using a jigsaw with a sharp blade or hole saw. Make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank.
13. **Floating installations cannot be installed under kitchen benches, or cabinetry etc. Cut in neatly around these objects, or partially slide under kickboards. Attach scotia or mouldings to fascia not the floor.**
14. Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall skirting, scotia and or transition trims. Do not secured scotia or wall skirting to the floor, leave a slight gap to allow for lateral floor movement.
15. **For wet areas such as bathrooms, laundries and powder rooms please check with your local building authority for suitability of installation. Do not assume it is ok to do so, check prior to installation.**
16. Protect the installed flooring from on-going construction and direct exposure to harmful UV heat and light. This will reduce the incidence of fading and surface damage. **Do not install Hybrid flooring in proximity to open fires or heating units, plank gapping and damage will occur voiding your warranty.**
17. **In Special Installation locations (refer bottom of pg.6) you will need to adhesive fix the small pieces where the click profile is unable to be secured in the joint as intended.** Apply a bead of industrial strength Super Glue (Ethyl Cyanoacrylate) adhesive to the groove of the small section and secure in place whilst it dries with low tack blue tape. Super Glue curing times will vary, best to aim for a product with lower cure rate, a recommended choice is, **Slo-Zap** that allows time for you to work the plank into place.

STAIR NOSING INSTALLATION

The product cannot be floated for stair applications, permanent adhesive fix is required. For this application you will be using a coloured matched Hybrid plank and a manufactured stair nosing. The nosing will not have an underlay attached but will match the overall height of the installed plank. Blend tread planks to suit nosing colour. For treads and risers, you can use a Hybrid wide plank with the acoustic pad attached, clean away any loose surface debris to prepare for adhesive fixing. Stair nosing, tread surfaces & the risers need to be permanently adhesive fixed (full contact required) & weight / tape whilst curing occurs. A permanent fix is required to comply with building code requirements. **We recommend Sikaflex 11FC for bonding raw stair nosing & underlay attached planks.**

Use the elastic multi-purpose adhesive to the underside of the cut planks or nosing to provide a secure and lasting application. Remember, during the curing phase, weighting and taping the stair components is necessary to maximise the bond quality.

Install method and workmanship are not covered by our Hybrid Flooring product warranty.

Floor Care & Maintenance

Your new floor will require care and maintenance to keep it looking good and performing as intended. If you follow these basic cleaning and maintenance guidelines the floor will provide many years of great service. An expanded Hybrid & Vinyl floor care document is available on our website for easy reading or downloading.

- **Steam or Electric mopping should not be used under any circumstances. Sweep & damp mop is ok.**
- Please ensure that an ideal room-climate is maintained whenever possible. Ideal conditions would provide for approximately, 45-60% Air Humidity and 21-25°C room temperatures. This is a comfortable range for indoor climate and provides for optimal health and assists in the overall performance of the floor. Ensure air-conditioning or evaporative cooling systems are operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to avoid excessive cooling, heating and moisture ingress remaining within the internal space.
- Daily cleaning should be done with a vacuum cleaner, static mop, or a smooth floor-broom. Any sand or dirt should be removed promptly: these substances are abrasive and will cause scratches and damage the floor surface coating. Please check vacuum head, broom, and other cleaning devices to make sure metal screws or sharp edges do not exist, they will damage the surface.
- **Do not use Steam / Electric Mops or wet mopping to clean.** The floor surface can be cleaned with a well-rung damp-dry mop. Do not use conventional household cleaning solutions and detergents, they are usually highly concentrated and abrasive, they will damage surface coating. Do not use traditional wax or steel-wool. PH neutral cleaning solutions are required, please observe, and follow manufacturer's instructions. Do not use solvents or citrus based cleaning solutions to clean residue or marks on the surface. **Bona Floor Care products for Hybrid & Vinyl surfaces are a worthwhile investment and readily available online.**
- It is important that you affix felt strips or suitable protection under any furniture-bases, chair-legs, and commonly movable objects. At entry points and for high traffic areas the use of floor mats to remove entry grit and dirt is recommended. **Do not drag or push heavy items across the surface of the floor.**
- **Roller or castor chairs cannot be used directly on the floor surface, grit will build up under the wheels and become abrasive. Use protective mats on the floor to protect the surface from excessive wear & scuffing.**

As with all flooring products your new Hybrid floor can be affected by excessive natural and artificial UV light. Your floor may change colour when exposed to excessive UV conditions for long durations. Floor coverings such as rugs and mats should not be placed immediately after laying. The floor should be allowed to stabilise for up to 8 weeks before rugs and mats are positioned. Alternating rugs is a good idea.

Window and large door openings require UV protection with sun blinds, drapes or similar. Window & door treatments should be in place prior to or immediately after occupancy. Temporary covers are required during the installation phase.

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