

## LAMINATE FLOORS

# Installation Instructions

## PREPARATION

All installations of Godfrey Hirst Floors Laminate products should be in accordance with these instructions. These instructions are intended to assist in achieving an optimum installation. Any variation to these instructions by installers may affect the Godfrey Hirst warranties. Should you have any queries in relation to these instructions, please contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.

Godfrey Hirst Laminate products must be installed using a floating floor system. Floating floor installation systems should NOT be used if loads are likely to exceed 200kg/object area or if the load is greater than 30kg/cm<sup>2</sup> – only direct stick products should be considered. A 10mm perimeter expansion gap is required against all fixed surfaces. Should it be intended to direct stick the product or expansion gaps are not acceptable, please refer to your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative or the Godfrey Hirst website [www.godfreyhirst.com](http://www.godfreyhirst.com) for possible alternative products.

**Important Notice – Laminates, like all wood based products, are hygroscopic (ie react to moisture in the environment). As a result laminate floors will expand and contract accordingly. All sources of moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor, and moisture levels in rooms fitted with laminate flooring should be maintained at a stable level, in line with normal living conditions. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. This product is not suitable for outdoors or high-moisture or humid areas such as bathrooms, toilets, laundries etc.**

### PRE-LAYING CHECKS

It is the installer's responsibility to verify that the product and accessories supplied is the correct product, colour, pattern and quantity. Prior to installation, each plank should be carefully checked in good natural light for any obvious visual defects. Never install defective product (unless agreed by a Godfrey Hirst Floors representative). If the product is incorrect or has any visual defects or damage, contact the retailer or Godfrey Hirst representative. Generally, Godfrey Hirst will not be responsible for any visible defects after the flooring has been cut and/or installed.

### SITE TESTING AND CONDITIONING

Concrete sub floors must be tested in accordance with AS1884-2012 (Floor Coverings – Resilient Sheet and Tiles – Installation Practices) for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test. Laminate RH levels can be up to 75%.

Keep the Godfrey Hirst floor (and any adhesives being used) at room temperature for at least 48 hours in unopened boxes before commencing installation. The room should be dry and well ventilated with temperatures between 18°C to 25°C. The temperature must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of 48 hours after installation completion. The ambient relative humidity in the installation area should be maintained at 40-60% to prevent condensation forming

under the laid flooring. Boxes should be stored no more than 3 high and spaced 200mm apart to allow airflow to avoid damage and maximise acclimatisation if required.

### SUB FLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloors must be level, smooth, dry and free of any surface irregularities including dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint or other materials or roughness.

Concrete floors must be cured, completely dry, with a surface free of irregularities. When a straightedge 1 metre long is placed at rest at 2 points 1 metre apart, no part of the surface shall be more than 2mm below the length of the straightedge. Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable (taking into account the traffic loads) approved levelling compound in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All irregularities must be levelled.

Existing timber, plywood and particleboard subfloors, must be checked for any loose boards/panels or excessive deflection or movement. If loose boards are found or movement is excessive, the subfloor should be re-affixed and damaged boards replaced, then if required, sanded to a level, smooth and dust free surface.

The installation of a 2mm closed cell foam underlay with minimum 200 micron moisture barrier or similar is recommended. Follow underlay manufacturer's instructions at all times.

The floor can be installed over most existing floorcovering (e.g. ceramic tiles, linoleum, PVC etc.) provided the floor is flat, dry and in the case of ceramics in a residential installation, grout line tolerances are no more than 3mm wide and 3mm deep. Otherwise grout joints should be filled to the level of the tiles with a suitable leveller. Carpet, carpet underlay and/or existing floating floors is not a suitable subfloor.

Godfrey Hirst Laminate Floors should never be installed over any subfloor heating system - the speed of sudden temperature changes having the potential to negatively affect the floor.

### PERIMETER/EXPANSION GAPS

A standard perimeter expansion gap of not less than 10mm must be maintained against all fixed vertical surfaces (e.g. walls, cabinets, sliding doors, island benches, plumbing fixtures etc.). For installation over large areas or in between multiple rooms that exceed 12m in length or 8m in width, the floor must be compartmentalised with gaps of not less than 18mm longwise and 12mm between widths. A trim or scotia can be used to cover this gap, ensuring the floor is not pinned to the substrate or vertical surfaces. Silicone or caulking compound is not recommended.

**Note: For installations that include the floor passing through multiple pinch-points, for example doorways and transitional areas from smaller passageways to larger rooms, consideration should be given to additional expansion allowance at these points.**

## PREPARATION

### TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- Spacers
- Ruler
- Tapping Block
- Saw
- Tape Measure
- Adhesive Tape
- Pencil
- No. 2 Rubber Mallet
- 2mm Closed Cell Moisture Barrier Underlay

## INSTALLATION

As a floating floor, the floor should not be adhered, nailed or pinned in any way to the subfloor or structure. Additional foam or cork underlays should never be used.

1. Prepare the sub floor in accordance with Australia Standard 1884-2012 and as set out in these instructions.
2. Plan the direction of the area to be installed to maximise the visual appearance once installed. The direction of the tile/plank grain should be confirmed and the installation should be balanced from the centre of the area to minimise waste.
3. After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor install the foam underlay. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the flooring planks. The underlay should be butted side-by-side with no overlap. Tape seams together.
4. Measure the room and estimate the number of rows required. If the last row is not at least 50mm wide, the first row should be cut so that the first and last rows are similar in width.
5. To minimise shade variation, mix and install product from several different packs alternately. After laying a small quantity of product, view from a distance that allows you to clearly see the overall effect. If there is any doubt cease installation immediately and contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.
6. From the right corner of the room put the first plank in place using spacer blocks against the walls to maintain the appropriate expansion gap so both the end and side seam grooves are facing outwards. Boards are to be installed from right to left. To assist in laying the first row straight, the use of masking tape across each short end locking system is recommended. Continue this for the first two rows and remove after completion of installation.
7. Install the second plank in the first row by laying the plank against the short end of the first plank. Lock the planks together by pressing the two planks together to engage the lock. You will hear and feel the planks lock together as the locking tab engages in the end join.
8. Start the next row with a cut board no smaller than 300mm. Click the side profile in the first row, while maintaining the 10mm expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or fixed vertical surfaces.
9. Place the second board of row two into the side profile of the first row. Slide the board up tight against the short end of the first plank. Place one hand under the planks and a thumb on top and press until end joins sit flush together.
10. Lay the next plank in the first row, followed by the next plank in the second row.
11. The last plank in the first row should be cut to length while maintaining an expansion gap of not less than 10mm along the perimeter of the room or fixed vertical surfaces. If the leftover cut from the first row is at least 300mm long, use it to start the third row, otherwise cut another plank in two.
12. Install the remaining planks in the second row by placing the plank tight against the short end of the first plank. Place one hand under the planks and a thumb on top and press until you here the click as the locking tab engages.
13. To lay the last row: position a loose board exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top with the tongue touching the wall or skirting. Draw a line along the edge of this board to mark the first board. Cut along this line to obtain the required piece. Install the cut board. The last row (possibly the first row) plank width should be no less than 50mm on the long seam. Remember to allow for the appropriate expansion gap to the wall.
14. Remove the spacers.
15. Holes for pipes: measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20mm larger.
16. Architraves (doorways) can be installed with a 10mm expansion gap. Or the architrave can be undercut a little higher than the thickness of the board. Adequate expansion must be left.
17. Install wall mouldings and door transition mouldings last. Be sure that all mouldings are fastened directly to the wall or subfloor; do not place any fasteners through the floating flooring. Care must be taken when fitting wall mouldings that they do not push down on the floor. This will affect the floors ability to expand and contract and may lead to product failure.

**NOTE: If necessary, to disassemble your Godfrey Hirst laminate floor, first unlock the side profile. Then simply lift the end join out to separate.**

### POST INSTALLATION

If construction works are still underway, the floor should be protected from site debris, dirt, soil, traffic etc. by use of a protective surface (e.g. sheet plastic, hard boards etc). Please be careful to ensure no condensation occurs and any adhesive tape or protective material does not affect the aesthetics of the finished installation.