

LUXURY VINYL PLANK - EXPRESS LAY

Installation Instructions (Australian Version)

Godfrey Hirst Luxury Vinyl Plank (Express Lay) Installation Guidelines should be reviewed by installers prior to commencement of installation. All installations should be in accordance with AS1884:2012. Should it be intended to direct stick the product, please refer to the Godfrey Hirst Luxury Vinyl Plank (Direct Stick) Installation Guideline available from your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative or the Godfrey Hirst website www.godfreyhirst.com. Should you have any queries in relation to the below recommendations, please contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.

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 for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test and pH. RH levels should not exceed 75% and pH levels should not exceed 10.

It is critical that any Godfrey Hirst LVP's and any adhesives being used;

- Must be allowed to condition on site for a minimum period of 24 hours, in a dry, well ventilated area with an air temperature between 18°C and 28°C.
- The temperature must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of 48 hours after installation completion.
- Boxes should be stored no more than 3 high to avoid damage and maximise acclimatisation.

The ambient relative humidity of the area where the products are to be installed needs to be assessed given this can strongly determine the type of adhesive or any other proprietary product required to complete the installation successfully. This may require covering the windows to prevent any fluctuations of temperature during or after the installation to prevent thermally induced changes to the product.

Sub Floor Preparation

Sub floors must be level and smooth and dry and free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint or any other materials which could adversely affect the adhesion of the LVP's to the floor.

Concrete floors must be cured and completely dry, with a surface free of trowel marks and surface irregularities.

For existing timber, plywood and particleboard sub floors, any loose boards should be re-fixed and damaged boards replaced, then if required, sanded to a level, smooth and dust free surface.

All subfloors must be thoroughly checked for the following:

- A. *Planeness* - When a straightedge 2 metres long is placed at rest at 2 points 2 metres apart, no part of the surface shall be more than 4mm below the straightedge
- B. *Smoothness* - When a straightedge 150mm is placed at any position at rest at two points on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 1mm below the straightedge.

Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable (taking into account the traffic loads) approved levelling compound in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions. All protrusions must be levelled. If water is used to clean the subfloor, a moisture test must be conducted in accordance with AS1884-2012 prior to installation.

A primer or cementitious coat must be used when adhering resilient flooring directly to particleboard subfloors as not doing so will adversely affect the bond. Resilient sheet and tile finishes are not considered a suitable surface for adhering resilient floor coverings and should be removed. If this cannot be achieved, careful assessment is required as to whether the existing floor is to acceptable standards to adhere the new flooring.

Adhesives

Use only adhesives recommended by the manufacturer for use with vinyl planks and relevant to specific site conditions. Special consideration should be given to the type of adhesive used in areas subject to extremes in temperature fluctuations or prolonged direct sunlight. Some examples may be as follows; windows/doors with a continuous full sun exposure, heaters/fireplaces, laundries, bathrooms, areas of high water spillage etc. It is highly recommended you contact the relevant adhesive manufacturer to confirm adhesive suitability and application.

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Installation Procedure

To minimise shade variation, mix and install product from several different packs alternately. Before applying any adhesive, loosely lay 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/adhesion immediately and contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.

Installation Instructions

1. Prepare the subfloor 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. When installing planks the starting point should be marked out at a perpendicular axes adjacent to the longest straight wall. Installations containing connecting areas and link-ups may require a number of perpendicular axes.
4. Application rates for adhesives must be determined by the installer as this will be subject to subfloor conditions. For further information regarding application rates, recommendations and warranties, please contact your adhesive manufacturer.
5. If installing directly over particleboard or hardboard subfloors, primer must be used to ensure good adhesive bond. Likewise for concrete subfloors that appear porous. For further information and recommended primers contact your adhesive manufacturer.
6. Select your installation method:
 - Direct Stick – Pressure Sensitive.** Use a full spread of pressure sensitive adhesive. Apply using a new V I notch trowel, ensuring that the trowel is replaced or sharpened regularly. Application of the adhesive using a roller is not recommended. The use of a pressure sensitive adhesive allows for "peel up" of damaged planks/tiles.
 - Direct Stick – Hardset Adhesive.** Use a full spread of a hardset adhesive. Apply using a new V I notch trowel, ensuring that the trowel is replaced or sharpened regularly. Application of the adhesive using a roller is not recommended. The use of a hardset adhesive ensures a permanent bond to the subfloor.
 - NOTE:** In areas that may receive exposure to increased surface water or severe temperature fluctuations, it is recommended to use a full spread epoxy. Contact the adhesive manufacturer for recommendations.
7. After installation, the section should be rolled in both directions using at least a 45kg roller or 3-section roller of equivalent weight to ensure a full adhesive transfer rate of no less than 95%. For smaller areas, use a hand roller to achieved the same transfer result.
8. The minimum distance between the ends of planks in adjacent rows should be no less than 150mm
9. Once fully installed all exposed edges should be protected by means of a diminishing strip or other suitable mouldings.
10. Traffic or wet cleaning should not be allowed on the installation for 24 hours to allow the adhesive to reach its full bond strength.

Post Installation

If constructions 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.). If using adhesive, it is recommended that plywood be placed over the floor during the removal or replacement of furniture or any heavy objects within 48 hours of the installation.

Please be careful to ensure no condensation occurs and any adhesive tape or protective material does not affect the aesthetics of the finished installation. Use window coverings to protect the floor from heat and fading under direct sunlight. Dramatic temperature fluctuation of the flooring could cause joins to lip or gaps to occur.

WARNINGS:

- **Asbestos – Prior to any take-up or removal of floorcoverings, adhesives or underlay, you should be certain these do not contain asbestos. If it is known or suspected the previous flooring, adhesive or underlay contains asbestos, you should avoid creating dust and the previous flooring and/or components should only be removed by an appropriately licenced asbestos removal contractor.**
- **These Guidelines are intended to assist in achieving an optimum installation. Any variation to the recommendations above by installers may affect any warranties.**

For further information, please contact your local Godfrey Hirst Floors representative