



Vinyl Plank Installation Guide.

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Vinyl Plank Flooring Installation

STRATAAlign

INTRODUCTION

Strata Align is a glue down vinyl plank suitable for both residential and commercial applications. Vinyl plank is waterproof, which makes this a great option for wet areas as long as the wet area finishing is followed (page 6).

INSTALLATION LIMITATIONS

Strata Align flooring is for interior use only. It is not suitable for exterior areas, enclosed patios or sunrooms. Strata Align is only intended for use as a interior flooring. It should not be installed in locations where the substrate beneath the building structure is exposed to the elements.

TOOLS NEEDED

- Tape measure
- Pencil or chalk
- Chalk line or string line
- Utility knife with sharp blades
- Vinyl adhesive
- Adhesive trowl
- Heavy-duty flooring roller

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The key to a successful and trouble-free installation is thorough preparation. Do not install Strata Align flooring without first performing a thorough on-site evaluation (including jobsite testing), ensuring that subfloor preparations are finished, and that the work of all other trades has been completed. Site conditions must comply with the information provided within this document, with the requirements detailed in ASTM F710, "How to Prepare Concrete Substrates to Receive Resilient Flooring," as well as relevant New Zealand Building Codes. Note: It is highly recommended to have substrate moisture and pH testing conducted by a certified technician. Documentation of moisture and pH test results may be required when submitting vinyl plank claims.

Preparation products, including moisture barriers, levelling compounds, patching materials, and underlayments, must be selected for the site conditions and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Strata Flooring is not responsible for their suitability or performance.

GENERAL CONDITIONS CONTINUED

ADHESIVE: Strata Flooring recommends ARDEX or Mapei vinyl adhesive. For high-traffic areas, wet areas, or high-temperature environments (including areas with radiant heating), the use of a two-part epoxy adhesive is recommended. Always refer to the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines for suitability, application, and installation requirements.

RADIANT HEATING: Heating systems must be operating for at least 2 weeks before installation. Maintain the subfloor at approximately 20°C before and during installation, and ensure the finished floor surface does not exceed 29°C.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS: Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, structurally sound, clean, smooth, dry, and prepared in accordance with the latest ASTM F710. Below- and on-grade slabs must have an appropriate vapour barrier. Remove contaminants using mechanical methods only (no chemical removers), and ensure the subfloor meets all moisture and pH requirements before installation.

NEW CONCRETE: New concrete subfloors contain high residual moisture and must cure for at least 90 days before moisture testing. Curing compounds may affect adhesive performance by restricting moisture release, preventing proper adhesive bonding or curing.

EXISTING CONCRETE: Existing concrete subfloors must be free of existing floor coverings, adhesives, paint, and contaminants. Remove residues using approved mechanical methods only (e.g. scraping, grinding, or shot blasting). Do not use adhesive removers or solvents, as this may void the warranty.

POWER-TROWELLED CONCRETE: Mechanically prepare smooth, dense surfaces (e.g. shot blasting or scarifying) and carry out bond testing before installation.

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE: Must have a minimum compressive strength of 17 MPa. Test moisture in accordance with ASTM F2170 or the adhesive manufacturer's requirements.

MOISTURE MITIGATION: Concrete exceeding the adhesive manufacturer's moisture limits must be treated with a suitable moisture mitigation system before installation.

WOOD SUBFLOORS: Strata Align is suitable for suspended timber subfloors with a minimum 25 mm double-layer construction, including at least 6 mm underlayment-grade plywood. Subfloors must be structurally sound, flat, well ventilated (minimum 450 mm clearance), and have a moisture content of 14% or less, with no more than 3% variation between layers. Do not install over sleeper subfloors or plywood in direct contact with concrete.

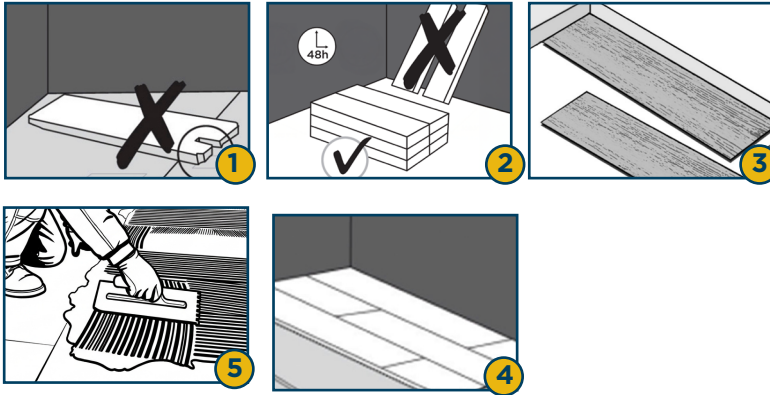
UNDERLAY: Use underlays specifically designed for resilient flooring. They must be structurally sound, smooth, moisture-resistant, and a minimum of 6 mm thick. Use only approved underlayment-grade plywood that complies with relevant New Zealand standards.

NON-ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOORS: Do not install over carpet, carpet underlay, existing floating floors, unstable or damaged subfloors, moisture-affected concrete or timber, cork, rubber, or any surface that is uneven, contaminated, or not structurally sound. All unsuitable flooring must be removed, and the subfloor prepared in accordance with these installation requirements before installation.

OTHER SUBSTRATES: Existing terrazzo, stone, ceramic tile, and non-cushioned resilient flooring may be suitable if clean, sound, level, and correctly prepared. Test concrete-based substrates for moisture and pH before installation. Fill grout lines or embossed surfaces where required to prevent telegraphing. Metal and resin-coated floors require bond testing and appropriate adhesives before installation.

NOTE: Where asbestos-containing flooring is suspected, follow all applicable WorkSafe New Zealand regulations before removal. Do not mechanically disturb asbestos-containing materials.

INSTALLATION



1. Inspection

Check all floor planks before and during installation. Before installation ensure you have enough product to complete the area. Defective planks should not be used. If you have any concerns contact your supplier before proceeding, as installed planks are considered accepted and claims relating to visible defects or plank variation cannot be accepted afterwards.

2. Inspection

Always handle and transport cartons of Strata Align on a flat surface in neat stacks; never put them upright. Strata Align must be climatized in the room of installation for at least 48 hours before installation. The room must be between 18°-29° C. Acclimatisation is critical for vinyl planks as they are reactive to temperature changes. Ensuring acclimatisation will prevent shrinking, gapping and peaks in your flooring.

3. Planning the layout

Measure the room and establish a centre line to balance the installation. If perimeter cuts will be less than half a plank wide, adjust the starting line to create wider edge pieces.

Dry lay the planks in a staggered pattern, offsetting end joints by a minimum of 150mm. Planks may be installed parallel or diagonally to the room. Once you are happy with the pattern, remove planks in order so you can install the adhesive to the area.

4. Adhesive bond test

We recommend an adhesive bonding test. Install a 1m x 1m section following recommended procedures. Tape the edges with duct tape to prevent premature drying. Select light traffic areas. The adhesive should be dry and flooring difficult to remove after 48 hours (full cure occurs after 6-8 days). On large installations, test every 15m of installation.

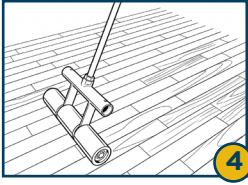
5. Apply adhesive

Use only the recommended adhesive for the installation conditions. Spread adhesive evenly using the manufacturer's recommended trowel. Do not slide planks through wet adhesive. Always use new trowels to ensure proper adhesive coverage.

6. Lay the planks

Begin from the centre line or approved starting point. Install planks tightly together, ensuring rows remain straight and aligned. Continue laying the floor in manageable sections until complete.

INSTALLATION



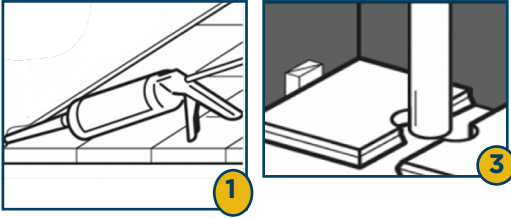
4. Roll the planks

The adhesive should be dry and flooring difficult to remove after 48 hours. Roll the installed flooring in both directions using a 45kg (100lb) three-section roller while the adhesive is still within its working time. Use a hand roller in corners and around obstacles.

4. Final checks

Inspect the installation as work progresses. Protect the completed floor from heavy traffic until the adhesive for minimum of 48 hours. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommended curing times before moving furniture onto the floor.

FINISHING FOR WET AREAS



1. For wet areas (kitchens, bathrooms and laundries) follow E3 Guidance, available on strataflooring.co.nz. Use a waterproof transparent silicone to seal around the perimeter.

2. Doorways/Thresholds: When flooring meets a doorway or threshold, turn a plank upside down and place it against the frame, lay a saw flat on the plank and cut through the frame, then remove the cut piece and vacuum any debris.

3. For Single Pipe: For a single pipe, align it with the joint between two panels, drill a hole with a bit the same size as the pipe, and then install the panels. For Double Pipes: For double pipes, mark both positions and drill a hole at each mark to match the pipe diameter.

Long-Side Pipes: If a pipe is on the long side of a plank, make a 45° cut from each hole to the edge, glue the cut piece in place, and fill any gaps around the pipe

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