

AUSLAY INDUSTRIES PTY LTD – AUSLAY FLOORING

IMPORTANT INSTALLATION INFORMATION “FLOORING EXPANSION GAPS AND FLOAT MOVEMENT”

“Floating floor expansion gaps” Following some simple installation requirements can eliminate any issues of joint breaking, cupping and squeaking of your SPC hybrid flooring. SPC hybrid flooring installation is a floating floor system. Correct substrate preparation is the most important part.

IMPORTANT : SPC HYBRID FLOORING is a floating floor system. Although SPC hybrid has very little expansion or contraction , it is important to allow float movement. So it is very important not to “pinch” the floor down or restrict the float movement in any way. Substrate preparation is also very important , it must be no more than 2mm variation up or down over a 2.0m radius. Self level your substrate before installation if it is more than this.

Moisture : It is very important to check the amount of moisture in your substrate before installing hybrid. The moisture reading should be no greater than 2.5% for an older slab and no greater than 3.9% for a new slab. If moisture is greater than this, you run the risk of potential issues with your hybrid flooring (warping or twisting). If moisture is present, then we recommend installing a 200um black builders plastic to cover the substrate first before installing your hybrid flooring.

Free to Float : Another very important factor to watch out for is if there is a potential for the back padding attached to the hybrid flooring will stick to the substrate. This can be from the substrate having a tacky feel to the surface, or the actual substrate itself. (example is particle board or concrete) - over a period of time the attached back pad on the hybrid may bond itself to the surface of the substrate. This will ultimately stop the flooring from being a float floor and may cause issues. To prevent a potential problem, we recommend simply rolling out a layer of 200um black builders plastic or install one of the many approved flooring underlayments first. This will prevent any issues from occurring.

Expansion Joints : Hybrid flooring can be installed in a single raft up to 18m x 15m. Any room sizes that exceed this should have an expansion joint installed between rafts. This will prevent any expansion issues that may occur and allow for any expansion movement over such a large area.

Perimeter gaps : keep your hybrid a minimum 6mm away from any wall or hard fixed structure. The structural movement of the building and the general float movement of the hybrid flooring are the main factor to consider. Keeping the correct expansion gap will allow for the float movement to occur correctly. Extremely hot conditions , or direct sunlight hitting your hybrid flooring may cause expansion issues. Although the expansion of SPC hybrid is less than 0.2mm @ 80°C , over 10 planks for example , can move up to 2mm. This is why having the correct amount of expansion gap is critical. Install your skirtings or scotias over this gap. Never fill the expansion gap, it must be left clear to allow the correct float movement.

Skirtings and Scotias : When installing skirting and scotias , its is important to fix to the wall only and not to the floor. You must have a gap between the shirting and the flooring so the float effect can occur. If this is installed down hard , it will create a pinch effect, stopping the floating effect from happening and can cause issues with your flooring. Ensure a 1mm - 2mm gap between the skirting and the flooring for movement , and this gap must be left clear to allow float movement.

Kitchens and fixed structures : Finishing around kitchen can be completed in several ways, but the 6mm gap from the structure must be allowed . Island bench gables , slide door base channels , solid structures such as brick walls or tiled skirtings. 1. Install a scotia bead, end stop, or skirting as per the above installation. Fix to the vertical only , not to the flooring. 2. Install the kick boards , scotia , skirting or end stops on the top of the flooring, maintaining the gap between the cover strip and the flooring. This will allow the float movement to still expand if it requires. (this joint must be 6mm minimum). * Never install your kitchen on top of your hybrid.

Doorways and expansion joints (flooring to carpet, tiles etc.) : It is important to allow for movement at these areas. Do not solid fix the flooring. Float movement must still be able to occur without any pinching effect. Leave a 6mm - 10mm gap between the flooring and the fixing point of any trim, such as T moulds , End stops , Transitions and cover strips. The trim or transition will cover the required joint , while allowing a float movement to be maintained. This is the same procedure for expansion joints in flooring.

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Stairs : When installing the “going” (tread) of a step, fully notch trowel suitable adhesive allowing a full bond to the step. Repeat the same procedure with the riser also. Maintain a 1mm - 2mm gap between the bottom of the riser and the step tread. This will allow for any expansion if it does occur.

Concrete Substrates : Firstly ensure that the moisture content has been checked (previously stated). If moisture is present, a layer of 200um black plastic is essential under the hybrid flooring. Any dips and highs must not exceed the tolerance of 2mm over a 2.0m radius. Self level the slab to ensure this before installing.

Timber Flooring Substrates : Strip timber, particle board , chipboard or any other building board that is used for structural floors must be fixed securely. The sub floor must have a minimum crawl space of 460mm underneath to prevent any moisture issues. Level or sand any low and high areas to a tolerance of 2mm over 2.0m . When this preparation is complete you must then install a 200um black builders plastic over the floor before installing your hybrid flooring. This will prevent the hybrid flooring from sticking to the substrate. All expansion joint requirements are to be adhered to.

Existing Tiles : If installing over existing tiles, make sure they are all secure. Check for highs and lows in the substrate and adhere to the same tolerance 2mm over 2.0m. If the grout joints are greater than 2mm deep then they must be levelled. If the grout joint are wider than 2mm , they must be levelled. If the existing tiles are textures in any way, we recommend a layer of 200um builders plastic be install before the hybrid flooring is laid.

Installing over underlays: Cork or rubber matt underlays must be glued to the substate first. Then you must install a layer of 200um black builders plastic. This will prevent the hybrid flooring from sticking to the underlay and causing potential issues.

Never install hybrid over carpet or any types of foam.

**** Your SPC Hybrid floor must be a complete floating system - Do not allow it to be “Pinched” down or restricted anywhere. This may cause issues and void product warranties.**