

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- Please read the entire installation instructions carefully before proceeding with the installation. If not sure, please contact your retailer or the manufacturer.
- Proceed with a visual inspection of the boards before installation. Once installed, the boards are considered accepted by the installer and the homeowner.
- Hydrotuff flooring must be installed as floating floor method only and **CAN NOT** be glued, screwed, nailed or any other fashion fixed to the floor.
- **DO NOT USE** any additional underlayment for this product. The warranty will be compromised if additional underlay is used, unless prior approval is received in writing from the manufacturer.
- Steam mop cleaning method is **NOT ALLOWED** under any circumstances.
- The use of silicone or caulking compound is not allowed throughout the installation.
- Minimum 10-12mm expansion gap is required around the perimeter at all times.

Acclimatisation & Site inspection

- Hydrotuff flooring must be installed in a regulated and liveable environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. As such, Hydrotuff flooring should not be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home.
- Hydrotuff flooring requires minimum 24 hours acclimatisation on site where it is to be installed at a room temperature between 10 -28°C, in unopened packs prior to installation. Ensure all packs are stacked flat, no more than 4-packs high and stored separated at least 300mm apart.
- Make sure the room temperature is kept between 0°C - 35°C after installation.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight, sliding doors and/or windows need to be covered by blinds or curtains. The surface temperature of the floor **SHOULD NEVER** exceed 55°C at any time.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 days old. Check basements and underfloor crawl spaces to ensure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.
- Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation, do not install sub-standard, non-confirming or faulty boards. Do regular alignment inspections as you continue the installation. The planks are considered accepted by the house owner or installer once installed.
- Handle with care. **DO NOT** stand packs on their ends.
- When Hydrotuff flooring is ordered, allow approximately 5%-10% for wastage and off-cuts, depending upon size or layout of the room or installation area.

General Information

Before installing the flooring, you must clean, sweep or vacuum the subfloor so that it is free of dirt and debris.

Expansion Gap

When installing Hydrotuff flooring, you must leave an expansion gap around the perimeter of the room of 10-12mm to prevent binding of the flooring. The planks must not be glued or tacked to the subfloor in any way.

DO NOT INSTALL CABINETS, KITCHEN ISLANDS OR ANY HEAVY ITEMS ABOVE 200KG IN WEIGHT ON TOP OF FLOATING FLOORS.

An expansion gap should be maintained when meeting other types of flooring. This also applies to any obstructions (kitchen islands, benches, columns, pipes, etc.) in the installation. Door jambs must be undercut to allow for expansion at all times; do not force the flooring under tight door jambs.

Cutting the planks

When cutting Hydrotuff flooring, it is recommended to cut with the decorative side up by using a Utility Knife and 'Score and Snap'. Alternatively, you can also use a Jigsaw to cut the long side of the plank with the decorative side down. Always start a row with a plank at least 400mm long and ensure the minimum end joint offset is 400mm apart.

Expansion Moulding

If the installation areas are greater than 25m in length and/or 15m in width or those with separate rooms, you will require the use of transition moulding to provide proper expansion space. Remove base mouldings. If necessary, the planks in the first row can be cut to a narrow width to ensure the planks of the final row are

Wet Areas

Hydrotuff flooring can be installed in wet areas including bathroom & laundry, however must be separated from any adjoining floors. Check and ensure the product is compliant with the National Construction Code (NCC) and your local building code.

Please **AVOID** the following:

- Any free-standing bathtubs should not be installed on a Hydrotuff floor
- Hydrotuff floor is not suitable for a wet area with a floor waste
- The use of silicone or caulking compound is not allowed at any time
- **DO NOT** leave water on the floor for more than 5 mins
- **DO NOT** leave wet towels or bath mats on the floor for any length of time Underfloor Heating Hydrotuff flooring can be installed over hydronic heated slabs.

DO NOT INSTALL HYDROTUFF FLOORING OVER ANY OTHER TYPES OF UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM.

The floor must be installed by a professional installer, and always follow all the manufacturers' guidelines to make sure your warranty won't be compromised. Available in-slab heating system ONLY.

Always install a 200um plastic moisture barrier first before installing. Operate the heat system at maximum capacity for at least 14 days prior to installation to reduce residual moisture from the concrete. Shut down the heat system at least 48 hours prior to installation.

DO NOT STORE ANY FLOORBOARDS IN THE DWELLING DURING THIS PROCESS.

Make sure that the room temperature is a minimum of 16°C during the installation. In addition, the temperature of the heated slab **MUST NOT** exceed 26°C at any time. A maximum increase/decrease rate of 2°C each day is allowed until you've reached the desired temperature.

After floor installation is complete, the floor requires gradual acclimatisation in conjunction with the heating system. Using an in-floor temperature sensor is highly recommended to avoid overheating.

Layout and Measure

First, determine which way to run the planks. Rules of thumb are:

- Lengthwise in the longest direction of the room.
- Lengthwise perpendicular to the main source of incoming light.

To avoid straddling a door jamb with a plank, measure back to the starting wall to ensure a plank connection within the door jamb area. It is recommended that you do not end up with a narrow strip at the end that is less than 50mm wide on any wall in the room. Make sure to cut both first and last rows, so they are equal in width.

Undercut all door jambs so that the flooring will easily slide underneath them, this will help to ensure the floor is not pinned by the door jambs. Using a scrap piece of flooring and underlayment as a guide, undercut the jambs with a jamb saw or regular handsaw. Always leave an expansion space between the flooring and all walls or other fixed objects.

Tools Required

- Safety glasses
- Dust mask
- Measuring tape and square
- Ruler
- Sharp 'Stanley' type knife
- Pencil
- Pull bar
- Hammer
- Tapping block
- 'Table type' power saw with dust collector, or a circular saw with carbide-tipped blade, or a power jigsaw, multi-tool, drop saw, and undercut saw
- Small hand tools associated with woodworking
- Expansion wedges (Suitable sized spacer blocks of plastic or wood)
- Suitable adhesive, moisture barrier, and residue remover
- Trims
- Scotia
- Stair Nosing
- Floor protection

Visual inspection and mixing planks

Notice to installer

Planks showing visible defects should never be installed. These planks should be put aside and used for cuts or submitted for a product warranty claim. Warranty claims resulting from the installation of such planks will not be honoured. For best results, it is recommended that material be mixed from four (4) to six (6) boxes when installing Hydrotuff flooring.

DO NOT PUT LIKE PLANKS NEXT TO EACH OTHER. THE INSTALLER MUST RANDOMLY STAGGER END JOINTS FOR BEST VISUAL APPEAL.

Preparation

SUBFLOORS MUST BE CHECKED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.

Subfloor

Hydrotuff flooring **CAN NOT** be installed over any existing flooring that has an attached cushion or is a floating floor such as carpet or carpet underlay. However, it can be installed over wellbond vinyl or ceramic tiles if sufficiently level. Tile grout joints or other gaps of more than 2mm in depth and 4mm in width should be levelled.

Please ensure the subfloor or surface that the flooring is being installed over is level. Using a 1m straight-edge, the subfloor level should not exceed 3mm over 1 lineal metre in any direction. Remember, uneven floors may lead to movement, noise and ultimately product joins failure, so it is necessary to assess the levelness and get it right. Timber subfloors can be sanded level and concrete subfloors or existing floor coverings can usually be levelled using a cement based self-levelling compound.

Existing floorcoverings may need latex based levelling compound. Concrete slabs must be cured and dry. The relative humidity of a concrete slab **MUST NOT** exceed 85% at any time in accordance with the current National Construction Codes (NCC).

Wooden and wood-based materials (plywood, OSB, particle board) must be dry, with a moisture reading no greater than 14% (this should be checked with a moisture meter). All wooden subfloors must be greater than 19mm thickness. Ensure that the boards of the subfloor are properly fastened to the supporting beams and that you do not have any squeaking or depressed areas. Patch if needed and fill depressed areas with floor levelling compound. Raised areas must be sanded down. The subfloor must be smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection.

Underlay

Hydrotuff flooring has attached a 1mm underlay which is adequate for most residential installations.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT USE ANY ADDITIONAL UNDERLAYMENT FOR THIS PRODUCT AS THE MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY WILL BE VOIDED. FOR COMMERCIAL OR MULTI-RESIDENTIAL INSTALLATIONS, IF ANY ADDITIONAL UNDERLAY IS REQUIRED, A FORMAL LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION FROM THE MANUFACTURER MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE INSTALLATION.

Flooring Installation Instructions

Installation

1. Getting started

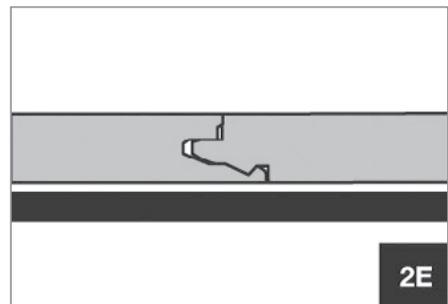
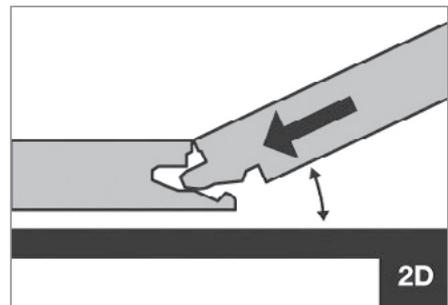
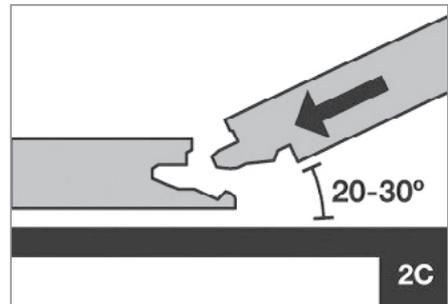
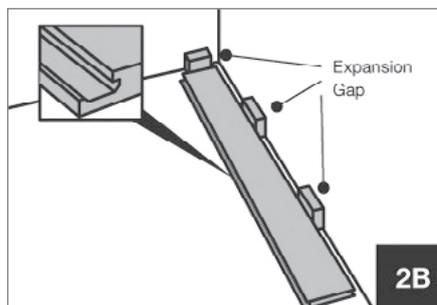
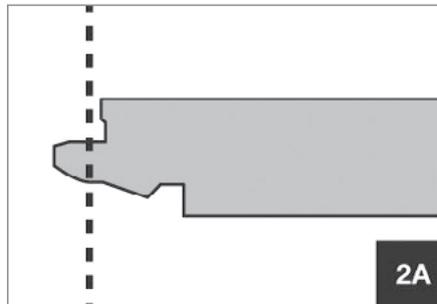
Check the planks before you start to make sure that they are not in any way damaged or have quality defects. After cleaning the subfloor, you can start the installation.

2. First row

Start installation of the planks in the left-hand corner, tongue-side against the wall. Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both long and short sides. Put the plank with sawn off sides against the wall.

Make sure you place both sides of the plank 10-12mm from the wall, put spacers between the plank and the wall. Position the short side of the next plank to be installed at an angle of 20-30° to the first plank already installed. Move the plank gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The planks will automatically click into place.

Repeat the same for the next 3-4 planks and then start the second row. Ensure the long sides of the planks make a straight line.

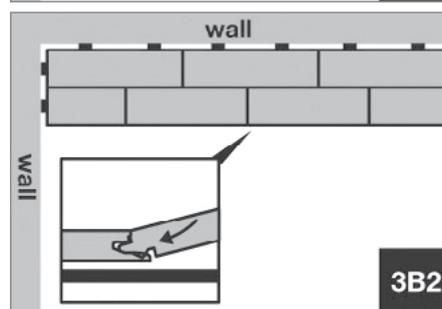
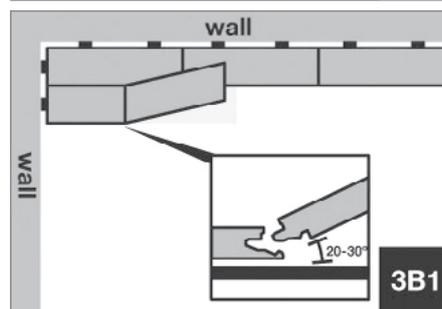
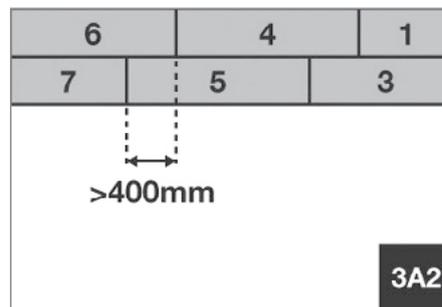
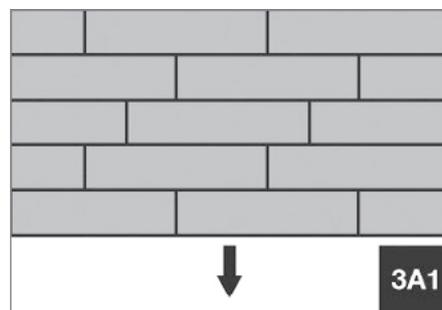


3. Second row

Use a cut piece of plank at least 400mm long to start the second row. **Always ensure that the end joints are randomly staggered at least 400mm apart.**

Place the long side of the plank into the first row at an angle of 20-30°, the plank will automatically click together. Engage the short side tongue of the new plank into the groove of the first plank of the second row at 20-30° angle. Then push the long side tongue of the new plank at an angle of 20-30° into the groove of the planks of the first row.

Move the plank gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The planks will automatically click into place. Repeat the same steps for the next 3-4 planks and then start the third row.

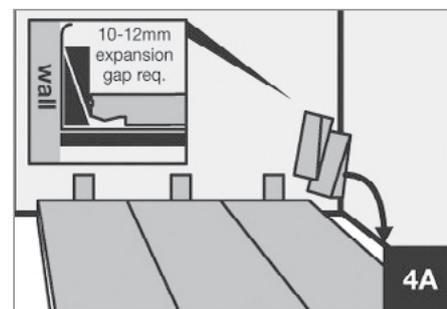


You can tap the long side of the plank into the groove by using a professional tapping block. The planks should not be joined by a single tap. To avoid damaging the planks, you must tap them together gradually.

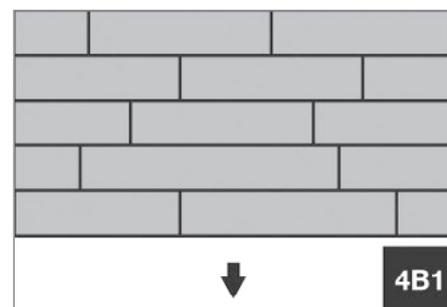
DO NOT APPLY FORCE ON END JOINTS AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

4. Third row

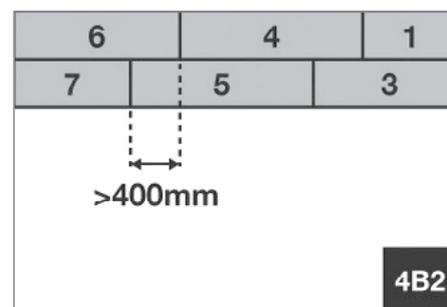
Start the third row in the same way as the second row. It is practical to adjust the expansion gap between the long sides and the wall when three rows have been installed. Ensure a 10-12mm expansion gap to the wall is left with the use of spacers.



It is very critical and important to keep the first three rows straight and square as it will affect the rest of installation.



Always ensure that the end joints are randomly staggered at least 400mm apart.

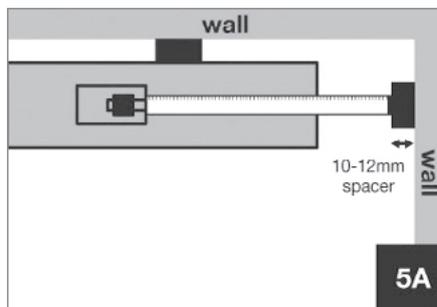


DO NOT TAP THE SHORT SIDES OF THE PLANK AT ANY TIME.



5. Completing the first three rows

Move back to the first row and continue the installation. Place the final plank of the row face down. The distance to the wall must be 10-12mm. Mark where the plank is to be cut. Place the plank decorative side up on the work surface and cut to size using a Utility Knife and 'Score and Snap'.



6. Continuing the rest of the installation

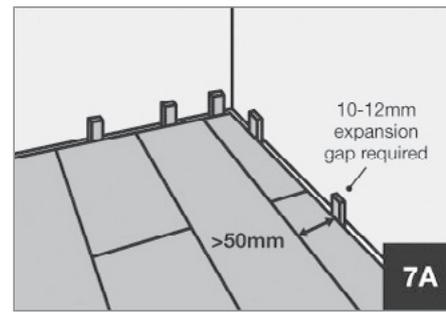
Repeat the same process row by row. Check to be certain that the locking mechanism on all planks are fully engaged. If gapping is noticed or the planks are not laid flat, simply disengage the long side by lifting up and then carefully tilt and lift the short side.

DO NOT APPLY FORCE ON END JOINTS AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

In some places where it is too difficult to install with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using a pull bar and hammer. After 2-3 rows, adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers 10-12mm. Continue the row by locking in the length of the planks until the ends are joined together.

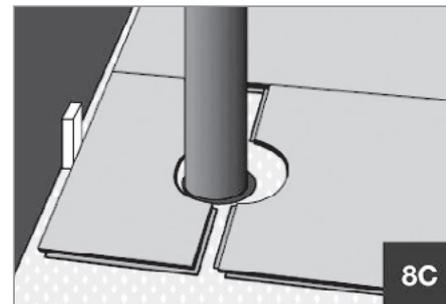
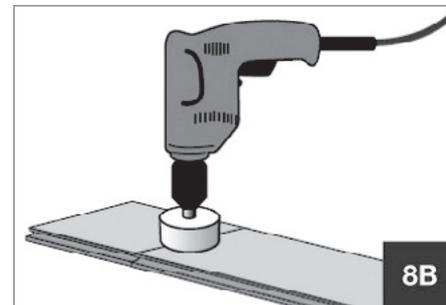
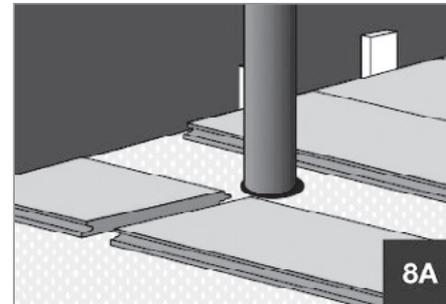
7. Laying the last row

Measure and cut the plank, it must be a minimum 50mm in width. Leave a 10-12mm expansion gap to the wall.



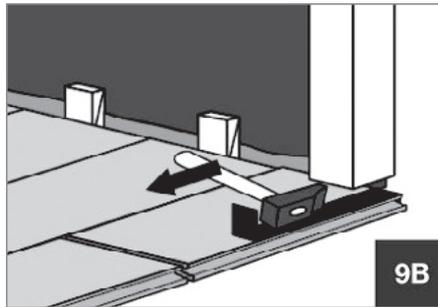
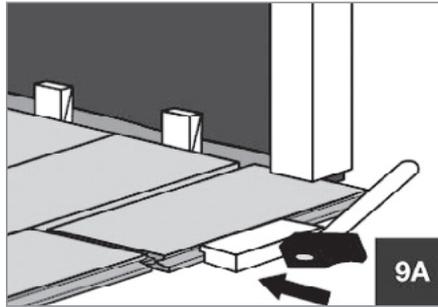
8. Holes for pipes

Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20-24mm larger to allow for expansion. Saw off a piece and then lay the plank in place on the floor.



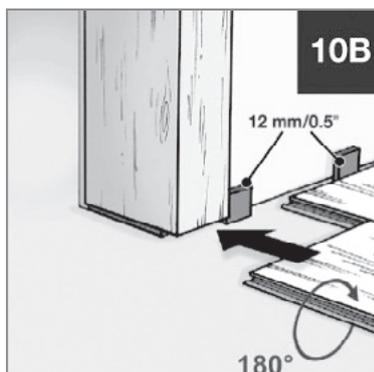
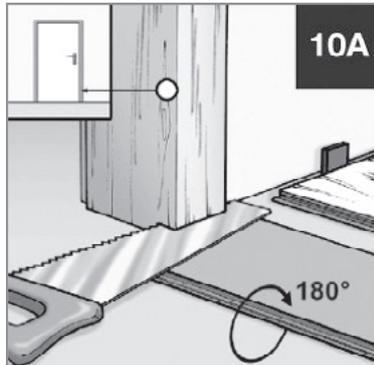
9. Under door frames

When you have sawed the planks, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 10-12mm. If the planks cannot be lifted, gently use a tapping block or pulling iron and hammer to tap the planks together with the planks flat against the floor until it clicks into place.



10. Door moulding and skirting

Lay a plank (with the decorative side down) next to the door moulding to measure where it is to be cut using a jamb saw or regular handsaw. Cut the plank and slide it under the moulding.



11. Lifting or removing

It is possible to remove or replace planks that have been laid as floating flooring in living areas and commercial areas without causing any damage. First release the whole row along the long side by angling it up to free it from the locking mechanism. The planks then can be disengaged by sliding apart carefully on the end/short side.

DO NOT PULL UP ON THIS JOINT AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

Please be particularly diligent and careful when undertaking this work to avoid any damage to the locking systems.

12. Finishing

Remove all the spacers and make sure the 10-12mm expansion gap is left around the perimeter. Install the scotias, skirting boards and other mouldings against the wall. Never attach the mouldings to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract. Ensure the room temperature doesn't exceed 30°C at any time. Protect the flooring from furniture and chair legs with suitable felt or plastic mats.

IMPORTANT: THE USE OF SILICONE OR CAULKING COMPOUND IS NOT ALLOWED AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE INSTALLATION.