

Installation & Maintenance

Loose Lay 5mm



INSTALLATION GUIDE

INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

Changes to installation methods occur over time as new products are released and their limitations are discovered. The product is historically defined as a "loose lay", meaning it did not require adhesive, as loose lay is the preferred installation method in Europe. However, loose lay installation is not the optimal installation method here in Australia due to our different climate. Polyflor Australia now advises all 5mm products are to be installed using hardset acrylic adhesives or, in specific situations where loose lay installation is required, Polyflor will design an installation system for the 5mm products.

i.e., in some installations, such as heritage buildings where the substrate cannot be damaged or altered, installing without adhesive may be the only option. These 5mm products are suitable for this installation, following specific Polyflor supplied instructions.

Simplay, MiPlank, Karri and Laneway are 5mm thick resilient vinyl flooring which has a cushioned non-skid grey backing to improve acoustic performance while reducing lateral movement when walked on. The product has a 0.55 or 0.7mm transparent wear layer depending on the product chosen and also incorporates a glass fibre layer to minimise dimensional instabilities. The Loose Lay Design tile product comes in both plank and tile formats

CONDITIONING

As per AS 1884-2021 section on conditioning, and supplemented by Polyflor's Technical Manual, all boxes are to be onsite 24 hours prior to installation, opened and stacked no more than 5 boxes high. To achieve conditioning, the product shall be stored on site in a controlled temperature environment with the ambient room temperature ideally between 15oC to 24oC for 24 hours before installation. The controlled temperature range must be maintained before, during and after the installation (for a minimum period of 24 hours after completion). The substrate shall not be exposed to direct sunlight for the period 24 hours prior to installation, during installation and 24 hours after installation. This may require blocking out the windows in order to prevent thermally induced dimensional changes of the product. Although the flooring has a fibreglass inter-layer and is generally quite stable, these recommendations should always be followed with regards to conditioning and allow for the impact of climatic changes.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloors must conform to AS 1884-2021. The surface of a subfloor shall be thoroughly checked for the following:

- a) **Planeness** – when a straightedge 2000 mm long is placed at rest at two points 2000 mm apart on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 4 mm below the straightedge.
- b) **Smoothness** – when a straightedge 150 mm long is placed at any position at rest at two points on the surface, no part of the surface shall be 0.5 mm below the straightedge.
- c) **Soundness** – the surface shall be without cracks, crazing, dusting, rain damage, spalling, efflorescence or blistering.

The moisture of the substrate needs to be tested and if more than 75% RH for concrete or 14% for timber, a moisture barrier needs to be installed. The flooring can be laid on the majority of sub-floors and substrates, including: concrete and screed bases; quarry and ceramic tiles; timber substrates; metal and poured floors, on the provision that they are structurally sound, without cracks and meet AS 1884-2021. Any grout lines should be levelled to avoid eventual shadowing.

SET OUT

The direction should be confirmed and the installation should be balanced for the centre of the area to minimize waste. Ensure colours correspond to those ordered, quantities are correct, and the product is from one batch. Complaints will not be received for installation of the wrong colour. Do not mix batches in the same area. For tiles the starting point shall be marked out at a perpendicular axis adjacent to the longest straight wall. Installations containing connecting areas and link-ups may require a number of perpendicular axes. For planks the starting point shall be marked out at a perpendicular line adjacent to the longest straight wall.

INSTALLATION

The decoration of tiles and planks is randomly distributed and can be heavier on some of the tiles than others. To prevent heavy and light colour shading areas, the tiles should be unboxed and, if required, shuffled. Alternating the direction of tiles may be required to avoid repeat patterns. "Stick down" installation is the recommended method of installation in Australia. In specific situations "Glue free" installation is possible, but it should only be performed with written consent from Polyflor Australia.

Stick down:

*Polyflor Australia recommends 5mm products to be adhered using hardset adhesive, the same way LVT is installed as per AS 1884-2021 and our Technical Manual. Pressure sensitive adhesives are not recommended. In areas exposed to thermal fluctuations i.e. north facing windows or around fireplaces, use a high temperature adhesive or 2-part polyurethane adhesive. **MiPlank Acoustic MUST be installed with Kiesel Star 100 Plus.***

Check backing to ensure there isn't any damage, which may prevent the product from laying flat.

- When installing, the centre line must be determined and checked to ensure good sized cuts will be fitted to the perimeter. Planks should be staggered to obtain a random finish; it is advisable to ensure that plank ends are not within 200mm of adjacent planks.
- Lay a row of the product, starting in a corner on a perpendicular line to the centre points.
- Work away from the newly laid floor and keep foot traffic to a minimum in order to minimise movement until the flooring is locked in.
- The product should be closely fitted and cut flush to any walls and fittings, score and mark the surface of the tiles with a sharp knife from the face side, reverse cut the tile from the underside to approximately 45°.
- It is recommended staggering the joints with planks; however, you can make patterns to suit the client's taste. Tiles can be grid or brick pattern.
- When fitting around irregular objects use heavy paper to make a pattern to ensure a tight fit. Place the paper on the plank or tile to trace and cut.

All exposed edges of resilient floor coverings or edges abutting other floor covering materials shall be protected by means of diminishing strips or other suitable moulding or trims. When the installation is complete all scrap material and debris shall be removed from the floor and the floor shall be swept or suction cleaned to remove all dust and debris.

The product should be allowed to relax 24 hours before locating furniture and fittings on top of the floor covering. Heavy furniture should never be dragged over any installation and care shall be taken when wheeling heavy loads over this type of installation as it may result in damage. In some instances where the product will be in contact with abnormal loads, i.e., pianos and special purpose beds or chairs etc. or where the castor wheels are less than 50mm in diameter, or where castor wheels are not able to properly disperse the load sufficiently, the use of an approved adhesive may be required to meet these unique circumstances as well as weight distributing feet e.g. piano feet. Please contact your retail supplier for further information. The product is water resistant and will withstand standing water. However, this does not mean that they are designed to be submerged under water for extended periods of time.

Glue free: Only to be performed with written consent from Polyflor Australia.

In general areas without high traffic the product can be installed in the interior of any building without the use of adhesive or tape providing the substrate conforms to AS1884 – 2021. The use of double-sided tape to secure the first two rows is recommended as well as across doorways. If installing in winter, ensuring a 1mm gap is left around the perimeter of the room. If installing in summer, ensure a tight installation against the skirting boards, not allowing the planks to creep or move. In some instances re-trimming of flooring around the perimeter may be required at a later date once the floorings have relaxed after installation.

POST INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

After installation use a brush, dry cloth or vacuum cleaner for cleaning. Where water/cleaning fluid is required, ensure the minimum is used. Again, use window coverings to protect the floor from heat and fading under direct sunlight. While the adhesive is drying, dramatic temperature change of the flooring could cause joints to lip or gaps to occur.

When the installation is complete: Ensure installation waste is removed from the surface of the floor. Mop, sweep or vacuum to remove dust and grit. Damp mop with a neutral cleanser.

Daily

Mop, sweep or vacuum to remove loose dirt and dust.

As required, spot clean with a neutral cleaner, followed by rinsing with clean water to remove stubborn marks.

Weekly / Monthly

As required, clean the floor using neutral cleanser (pH 7 to 9), using a microfiber mop. If a rotary scrubber is used there is the possibility that some of the product may be disturbed, especially if too much liquid has been used – use an absolute minimum to prevent liquid penetrating into the seams and joints.

The maintenance regime requires the installation of an effecting barrier matting system. Cleaners and polishes should be used as per the manufacturer's instructions. Follow manufacturers safety and application guidance.