

Installation Instructions

Altitude Hybrid Vinyl Plank - 5Gi

Appropriate Settings:

Residential settings and commercial settings: areas with light to moderate traffic, such as hotels, conference rooms, classrooms, small offices, small department stores, boutiques and lobbies. This product is designed for internal installation only – it is NOT to be installed in areas that have a potential for flooding, such as saunas or outdoor areas. This product is not suitable for installation in garages, as discolouration of the surface of the planks can occur as a result of prolonged contact with rubber.

Before You Start

- Installation should comply with Australian Standard AS1884:2012.
- Calculate the total square meters of the space being covered and add 5% for cutting and waste.
- The product should be placed in the room in which it is to be fitted for **48 hours prior to installation**, to acclimatise, and should be carefully stacked in its packaging, to allow air to circulate.
- The product must be stored, installed and maintained in a protected and dry place, with room **temperature between 14°C – 28°C**, and **relative humidity between 40 – 65%**. Rapid and significant temperature fluctuation must be avoided.
- Your flooring should be protected from direct sunlight by use of curtains, blinds or UV resistant film on windows.
- Check each plank for any manufacturing defects prior to installation. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed.
- Rigid vinyl planks are all the same length but should be laid randomly across the floor to create the best effect. We recommend that you install the planks using a mix from several different cartons to ensure a random appearance. This will result in a more natural looking floor.
- The boards should be fitted so as to run the length of the longest, straightest wall. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the length of the hallways.

Important Notice Regarding Warranty:

This product is covered for a very competitive warranty period. In order to enjoy the peace of mind that this warranty affords and ensure the optimum performance of your floor, you must comply with all instructions relating to preparation, subfloor, installation environment, installation method, and ongoing care and maintenance. Any faults that occur as a result of failure to comply with the above, will not be covered by the warranty.

Subfloors

The below requirements apply to all subfloor options detailed throughout this document, and must be paid careful attention in order to minimise the risk of problems occurring with your flooring post-installation.

All substrates must be structurally sound, flat/even, clean and dry:

- **Structurally Sound:** This product can be installed onto concrete subfloors and existing wood, vinyl or tile floors provided they are not cushioned and are dimensionally stable. Existing engineered wood or laminate floors are not suitable.
- **Flat/Even:** Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed **3mm under a 2 lineal metre** straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound. Please engage a professional installer's services for these tasks.
- **Clean:** Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from all contaminants and loose material by vacuuming prior to installation.
- **Dry:** It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor complies with the relevant Australian standard: a maximum of **75% relative humidity for concrete subfloors** and **10 – 15% moisture content for wood subfloors**. All potential sources of moisture (e.g. walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, fridges, washing machines etc.) must be thoroughly checked and rectified if found to be an issue. The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is adequately dry for installation of the flooring lies with the installer of the product.

Concrete Subfloor

- In order to avoid moisture related problems with your floor, the concrete must have been installed using good building practices and must be cured, dry and have a damp proof membrane installed.
- Relative humidity of the concrete must not exceed 75% when tested to ASTM2170.
- Existing concrete subfloor's moisture content can be checked using a moisture meter. Your floor must not be fitted until the problem has been rectified.

Heated Subfloors

- It is not recommended to install vinyl plank flooring over an electrical radiant heating system. Hydronic radiant heating systems are acceptable provided the following instructions are complied with: ensure the surface temperature never exceeds **28°C**. Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the subfloor. Once this has been completed, switch off your radiant heating system for installation of the flooring. It is recommended that the radiant heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the flooring. Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

Wood, Vinyl or Tile Subfloor

- In order to avoid moisture related problems with your floor, the moisture vapour content of a wood subfloor must not exceed **10 – 15%**.
- All existing floorcoverings must be securely fixed to the subfloor, to minimise the risk of squeaking. Where poor adhesion between the subfloor and existing boards, planks or tiles exist, secure if possible, otherwise remove existing floor entirely

Installation

Floating Installation Guidelines

Tools Required (not supplied): Spacer Wedges, Rubber Mallet, Saw, Utility Knife, Tape Measure, Metal Ruler, Pencil.

- Determine the direction and placement of your flooring installation prior to commencing installation:
 - Planks should run the length of the longest, straightest wall of the installation area.
 - Determine the width of the installation space and ensure the planks in the final row are going to be at least 50mm in width. If this is not the case then reduce the width of the first row to accommodate this.
 - When measuring out the installation space, allow for a **10mm expansion gap** against all perimeter walls and permanent fixtures (benches, cabinetry, pipes, etc.). Frontier offers matching scotia for this product range, that will cover these expansion gaps.
 - In doorways between adjoining rooms, expansion joints should be utilised. Areas that exceed **200m²** (or 20m in length or 10m in width) should be separated by expansion joints.
- Do not install benches or fittings on top of the vinyl planks. This will pin the floor in place and prevent it from moving properly.
- Draw planks from multiple boxes at a time, being mindful of the pattern and colour of the planks being laid. Ensure that planks are installed in a random, natural-looking sequence.
 - Note:** It is the installer's responsibility to inspect every plank that is laid. If a plank is laid, then it is considered to have been of acceptable colour, quality and condition and Dunlop Flooring cannot accept responsibility for the removal or rectification of such planks.
- Planks are to be laid from left to right. Choose your starting corner and place your first plank against your spacer wedges so as to maintain the required **expansion gap of 10mm**. The grooves of the end and side of the plank should be facing towards the centre of the room (not outwards).
- These planks utilise an innovative **Valinge 5Gi** locking mechanism. Install the next plank in the row by placing the tongue end-join of the second plank into the groove end-join of the first plank. The tongue end of the second plank needs to be placed into the groove of the previous plank then, using a rubber mallet, gently tapped along the end join until the surfaces of the two planks are flush.
 - Note:** Excessive force is not required to achieve a secure hold. Ensure end joins are properly aligned before mallet is used, otherwise permanent damage could be done to the lock.
- Continue installing the remainder of the first row in the same fashion until you reach the end of the room, and cut a plank to length, ensuring that you maintain the 10mm expansion gap.
- Start the next row by using the remainder of the plank from the previous row, unless this piece is less than 150mm. If this is the case, or if the plank piece from the previous row does not facilitate an aesthetically pleasing complement to the adjacent planks in the floor, opt instead for cutting a new plank to start this next row.
 - Note:** End joins should never be closer than 150mm to the end joins of parallel rows. This weakens the stability of the floating installation.
- Install the first plank of the second row by angling the tongue of the side-join into the groove of the first row. Slowly lower this plank down whilst maintaining pressure towards the previous row of installed planks. Once locked properly the planks should be sitting flush.
- For the remaining planks in the row, follow the same process as above, and once the plank has been folded flat, slide it to the left until the end join meets with the previous plank in the row. Follow the above process for securing end joins.
- Should a plank need to be disengaged, **DO NOT** attempt to remove it by simply lifting or pulling the plank up. The plank in need of removal first has to be angled so as to disengage the lock along the length of the plank. Whilst holding the plank on this angle, slide the plank towards you. The end join will allow the plank to slide free.
- Once the entire installation area has been laid, you may commence installation of expansion trims. Trims must be fastened to walls/fixtures not to the floor, and care must be taken to ensure that the trims are not putting pressure on the vinyl planks, as either of these things will pin the floor in place, preventing it from moving under lateral pressure.
 - Please note:** Floating installations may not function as required if heavy furniture (>150kg) is placed on top of the floor. This prevents the product from being able to move properly when under lateral pressure.

Finishing Off

- The perimeter of the floor can be finished by fitting **Frontier Urban or Altitude** matching **Scotia trims** or by re-fitting any pre-existing trims that were removed for installation.
- At doorways, a door threshold strip should be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.

