



empress

HYBRID FLOORING

# Empress Hybrid Herringbone Flooring Installation Instructions

# Empress Hybrid Herringbone Flooring Installation Instructions Requirements

Floated

Floated Floor Method: Yes

.....

Raft Size: 15m (l) x 15m (w)

.....

Underlay Required: No

.....

Adhesive: No

.....

Expansion Gap Floated: 10mm

.....

Direct Stick

Direct Stick Method: No

.....

Wastage: 10-15%

Nailed / Screwed to subfloor: No

Hydronic Heated Slab: Yes

# Empress Hybrid Herringbone Flooring

## Installation Instructions

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## General Information

It is understood that;

### IMPORTANT:

- **It is the owner's/installer's responsibility to read and be aware of the entire installation instructions before proceeding with the installation.**
- The installer assumes all responsibility for the final inspection of product quality. An inspection of each board should be carried out prior to installation. It is the installers responsibility to ensure that the correct floor has been supplied and matches the scope of works. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish, and quality before installing. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause. All such inspections should be conducted in finished lighting conditions, particularly in areas that will be exposed to sources of natural light. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact your retailer immediately.
- 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring must be installed in a regulated and liveable environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. A 'regulated environment' is one with a consistent temperature range. As such, 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring **SHOULD NOT** be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled structure.
- Warranty exclusions include, but are not limited to:
  - any damaged incurred by direct exposure to excessive heat and/or sunlight.
  - scratches, stains or indentations
  - poor cleaning/maintenance regimes
  - direct or indirect result of moisture ingress and heat damage along with the incorrect use of steam mops and wet & dry vacuum cleaners. These must **NEVER** be used on your hybrid flooring.
- Please contact your retailer immediately if you have any questions regarding these guidelines.

## Acclimatisation & Site inspection

- Hybrid Flooring required minimum 24 hours acclimatisation on site where it is to be installed at a room temperature between 10-28C, 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 needs 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.
- Handle with care. **DO NOT** stand packs on their ends.
- When 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring is ordered, allow approximately 10-15% for wastage and off-cuts, depending upon size or layout of the room or installation area.
- Before beginning installation, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and conditions, and the type of subfloor involved are acceptable. Thus, ensuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements, stipulated in the installation instructions that follow. The manufacturer declines any responsibility or job failures resulting from, or that are associated with inappropriate, or improperly prepared subfloor, or job site environmental deficiencies.

## Installation tools, accessories & materials

- Safety glasses
- Dust mask
- Measuring tape and square
- Ruler
- 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 moisture barrier, and residue remover
- Trims
- Scotia
- Stair Nosing
- Suitable floor protection

## Method

### Expansion Moulding:

Installations greater than the stipulated raft size (Please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover).

### Wet Areas

9mm Hybrid Herringbone 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 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Floor.
- 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring 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 INSTALL** any cabinets or kitchen islands or any heavy items (above 200kg in weight) on top of floating floors. An expansion gap must be maintained when meeting cabinetry (please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover). This also applies to any obstructions and fixed items (columns, pipes, etc.) in the installation. Door jambs must be undercut to allow for expansion; do not force the floorboards under tight door jambs.

## Preparation - Subfloors

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

9mm Hybrid Herringbone 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 well-bonded vinyl or ceramic tiles if sufficiently flat. Tile grout joints or other gaps of more than 2mm in depth and 4mm in width should be levelled.

Please ensure the subfloor that the flooring is being installed over is flat. Using a 1m straight-edge, the subfloor flatness should not exceed 2mm 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 flatness and get it right.

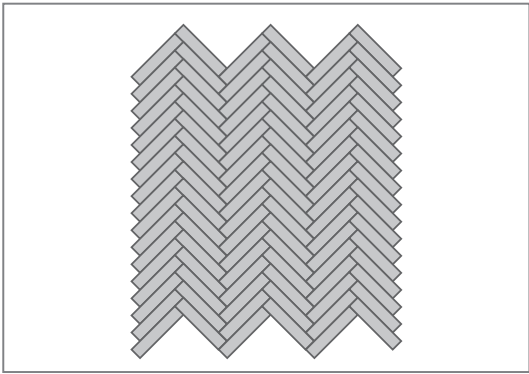
Concrete slabs must be cured and dry. The relative humidity of a concrete slab **MUST NOT** exceed 85% at any time in accordance with the current National Construction Codes (NCC).

Concrete subfloor highpoints can be ground, and depressed areas can be filled with a suitable floor levelling compound.

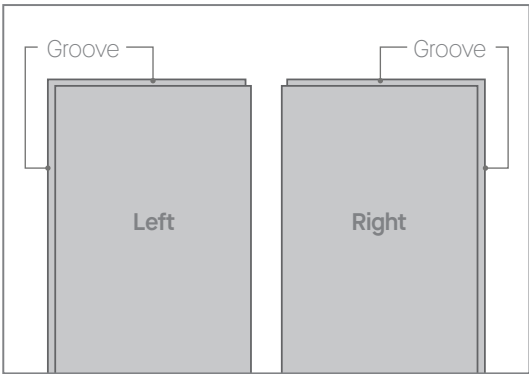
Wooden and wood-based materials (plywood, OSB, particle board) must be dry, with a moisture reading no greater than 14% (this should be checked with a moisture meter). All wooden subfloors must be greater than 19mm thickness.

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 a suitable floor levelling compound. Raised areas must be sanded down. The subfloor must be smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection.

**Board References**

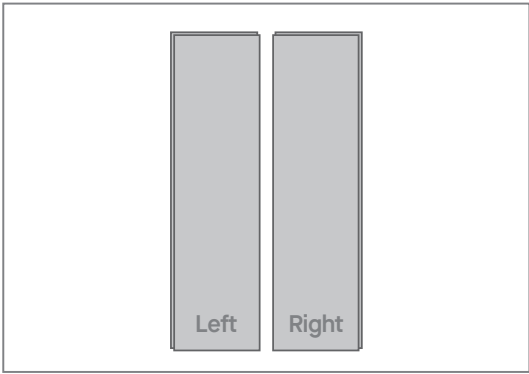


**Herringbone Pattern**



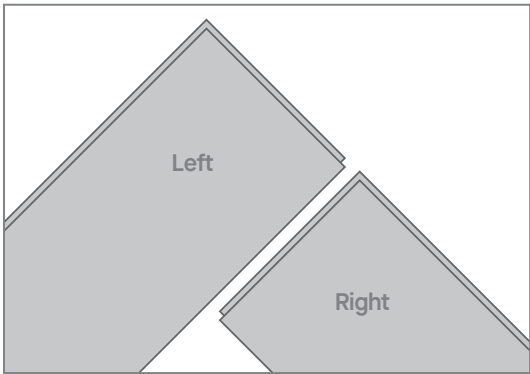
**Herringbone Groove**

9mm Hybrid Herringbone packs come with 6x left-planks and 6x right-planks.



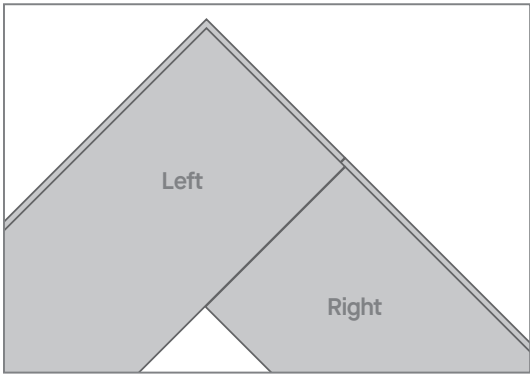
**Herringbone Boards**

Full length Herringbone planks come in 600mm x 120mm



**Herringbone Pattern Placement**

A left-plank and a right-plank will be required to form a join.



**Herringbone Pattern Placement**

Example of the board placement.

# Hybrid Herringbone Flooring Installation Instructions for Floating Floor Method

**IMPORTANT:** Precision is the key when installing 9mm Hybrid Herringbone flooring. Verify measurements and check row alignment frequently to ensure the pattern is being laid accurately and symmetrically.

Installing 9mm Hybrid Herringbone flooring requires high-degree technical ability and should be only performed by qualified, experienced professional installers.

Each carton of 9mm Hybrid Herringbone flooring contains 6 x left and 6 x right planks. A left-plank and a right-plank will be required to form a join.

Proceed with a visual inspection of the boards before installation. Once installed, the boards are considered accepted by the installer and the homeowner.

9mm Hybrid Herringbone flooring must be installed as a floating floor method only and **CANNOT** be glued, screwed, nailed or fixed to the subfloor in any fashion.

Any additional underlay used with this product will void the manufacturer's warranty. Should additional underlay be required formal approval must be granted by the manufacturer prior to installation.

The use of silicone or caulking compound is not allowed throughout the installation.

Avoid using solvents of any kind to clean the floor. Solvents include (but are not limited to) methylated spirits, turpentine, bleach, ammonia, eucalyptus, citrus, vinegar and any non-pH neutral cleaners. These solvents may damage the surface, which is not covered under warranty.

Cleaning with a steam mop is **NOT ALLOWED** under any circumstances.

9mm Hybrid Herringbone flooring can be installed over under-floor heating system, please refer to and follow our 9mm Hybrid Herringbone flooring Heated Slab Instructions.

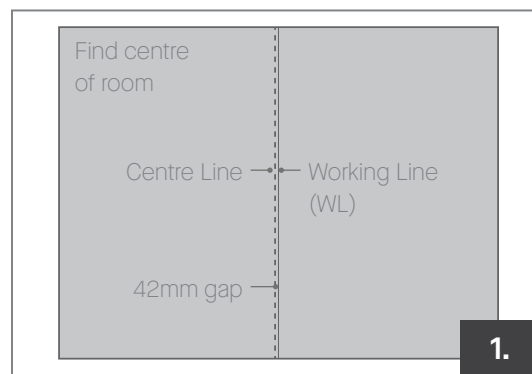
A successful installation will rely heavily on adherence to these instructions. The two most common causes of failure are uneven subfloors and inadequate expansion to the perimeter of the floor.

## Installation

### Getting Started:

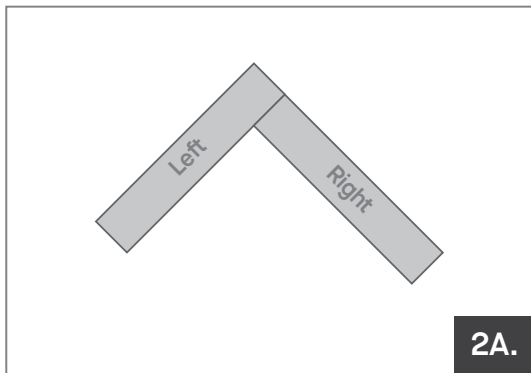
- Check the planks before you start to make sure that they are not in any way damaged or have quality defects. These planks should be put aside and used for cuts or submitted for a product warranty claim. Warranty claims resulting from the installation of such planks will not be honoured.
- After cleaning the subfloor, you can start the installation.
- The 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring is supplied as **Left (L) & Right (R) planks**. It is recommended to open a few packs to sort the herringbone planks into left and right piles before installation. It is important to keep the left and right planks separated during installation. You will recognise these planks by the LEFT/RIGHT printing on the grooves of each plank. The two planks are each other's mirror image.
- For best results, it is recommended that material be mixed from four (4) to six (6) boxes when installing 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring.
- Determine the layout for the floor and the direction the pattern will run. Typically, the pattern will follow the length of the room.

- To determine the centre of the pattern, snap a string line down the centre of the installation area. Then snap a chalk line approx. 42 mm to the right of the Centre Line. This will be the working line (WL) to ensure the pattern is aligned symmetrical in the room **(1)**.

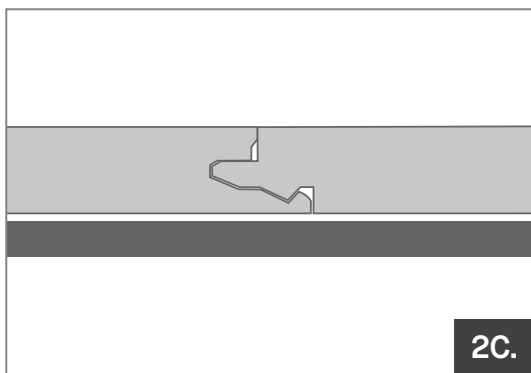
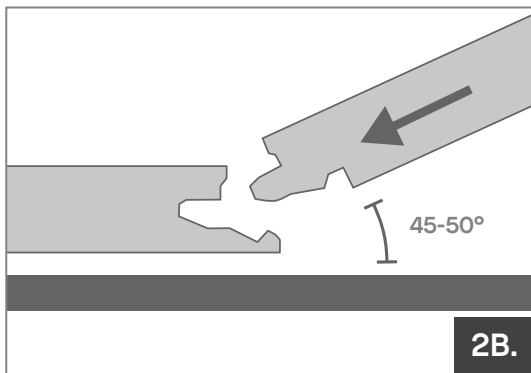


## Forming the first base herringbone pattern

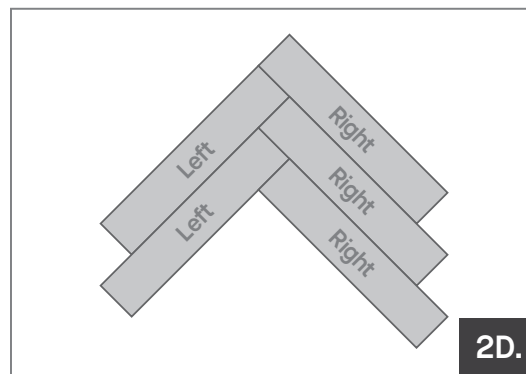
- Place a Left (L) plank and a Right (R) plank at a 90° angle to each other **(2A)**.



- Insert the tongue of the long joint of L plank into the groove of the short joint of R plank at a 45°- 50° angle **(2B)**. Make sure that the grooves of both planks are aligned and locked firmly together **(2C)**.



- Engage a second Right plank to the first Right plank on the long side at a 45°- 50° angle, aligning it with the top of the Left plank. Continue with the next Left plank in the same way until you achieve two Left planks and three Right planks **(2D)**.

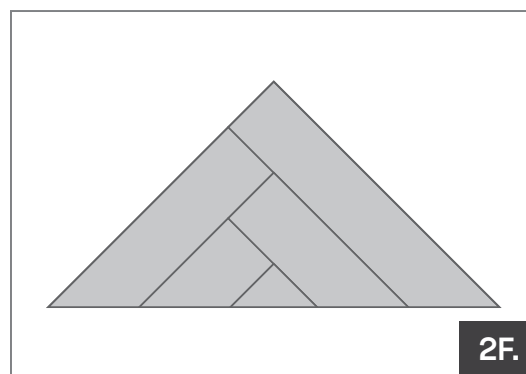
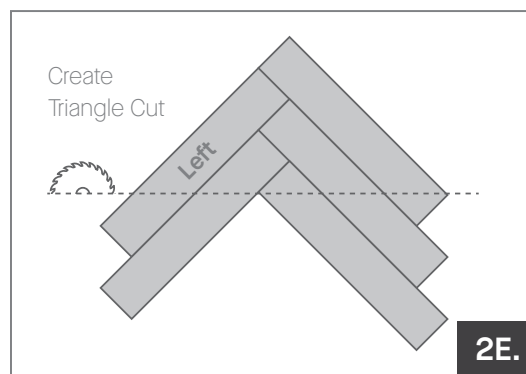


When clicking the planks together, check that the joins are always closed tightly and that the ends of each plank are always in line with the long joint of each plank.

A tapping block and hammer can be used to tap the short joints of the boards to ensure the locking mechanism is fully engaged. To avoid damaging the planks, you must tap them together gradually without applying excessive force.

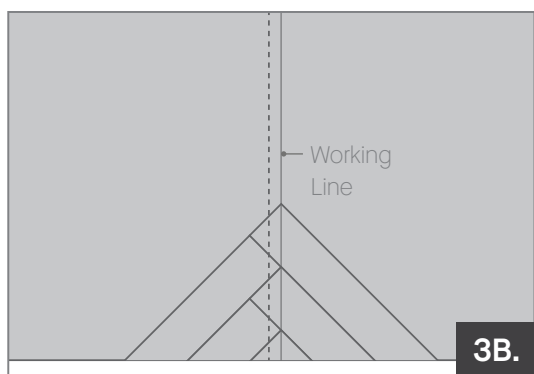
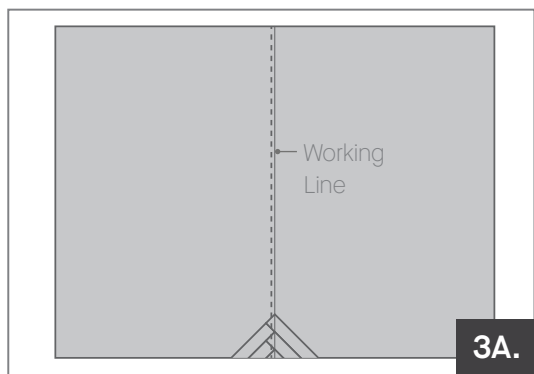
## Cutting the triangle to size

- Using a straight edge, mark a line on the decor side of the boards from the right-hand corner of the last installed R plank (third R plank), to the centre point of the first row and continue the line **(2E)**. Cut along this section to create the first triangle **(2F)**.

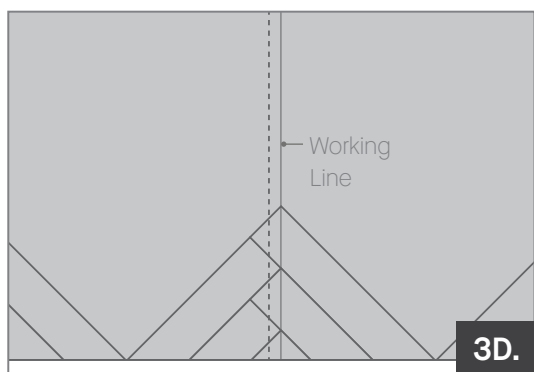
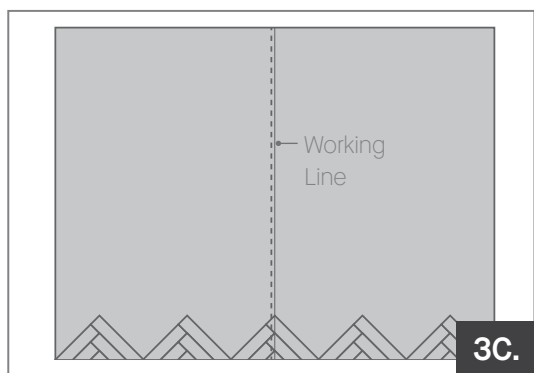


## Installing the first row

- Place the triangle against the wall with the apex point facing you, align with the working line (**3A-3B**).



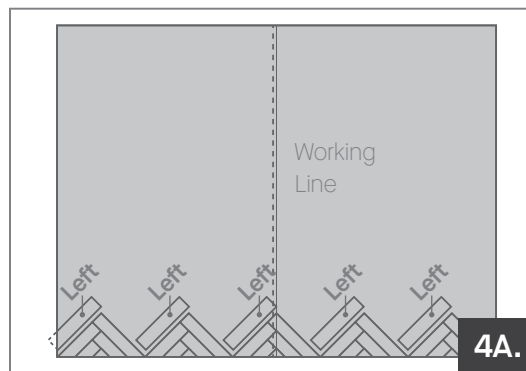
- Continue this process to create enough triangles to cover the width of the wall (**3C-3D**).



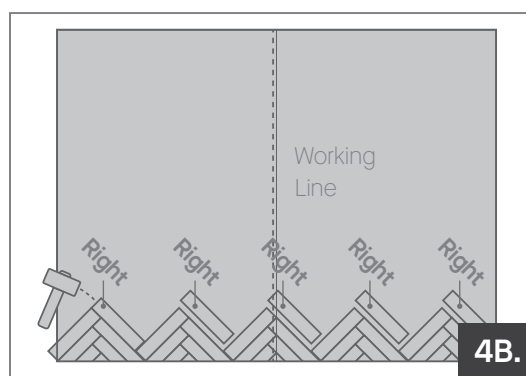
- Ensure all triangles are aligned to form a straight grid.

## Continuing the rest of installation

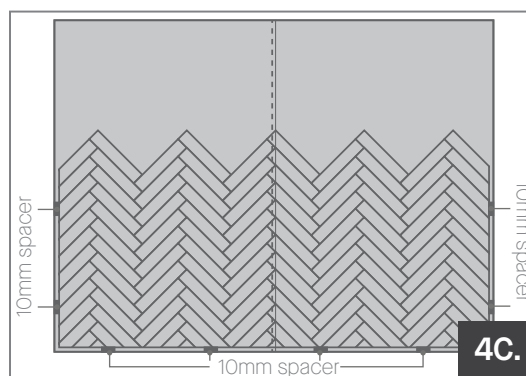
- To connect the triangles, install a complete row of Left (L) planks by engaging the long side first. Once aligned, use a tapping block and hammer to gently tap the short sides of the planks until the locking mechanism is fully engaged with the triangle section (**4A**).



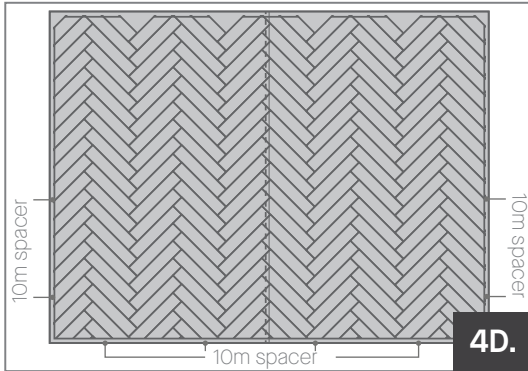
- Continue the same step for a complete row of R planks (**4B**).



- Once all the triangles are connected, slide these off the starting walls and install suitable spacers against the starting walls. Make sure to leave a **minimum 10mm expansion** around the entire perimeter of the flooring (**4C**).

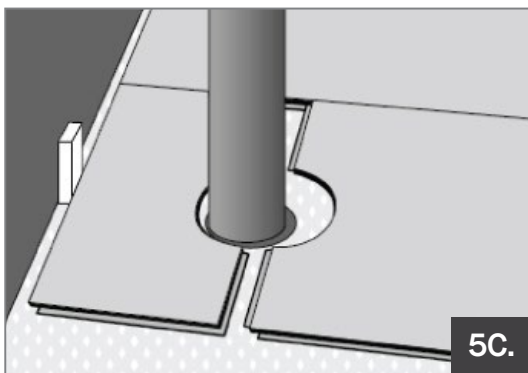
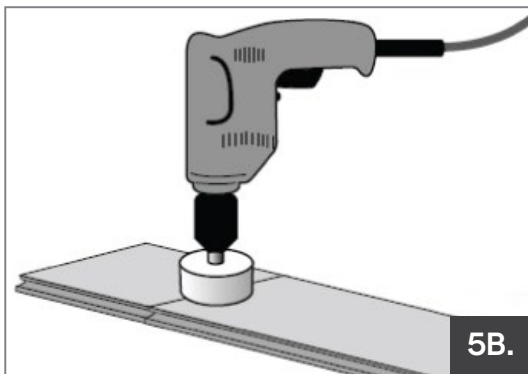
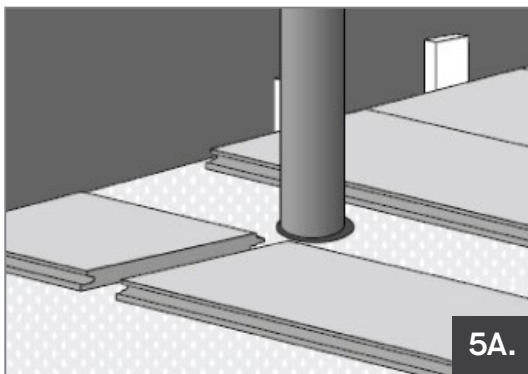


- Continue installation as per steps above for the entire room. Make sure to be regularly checking to ensure that the outer corners of the triangles are always align with the working line. When the opposite wall is reached, planks will have to be cut to size in order to fit. A minimum 10mm expansion gap is required around the entire perimeter of the flooring **(4D)**.



## Holes for pipes

Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20mm larger to allow for expansion. Saw off a piece and then lay the plank in place on the floor. **(5A-5C)**.



## Under door frames

If the planks cannot be lifted, gently use a tapping block or pull bar with a hammer to tap the planks together until the locking mechanism is fully engaged.

For smaller pieces where the locking mechanism cannot be properly engaged, it may be necessary to use adhesive fixing. Apply a thin bead of industrial-strength super glue (or a similar adhesive) along the groove of the small section, then press the plank firmly into place. Secure it temporarily with low-tack tape until the adhesive has cured.

Always ensure that the expansion gap beneath doors is minimum 10mm.

## Lifting and removing planks

It is possible to remove or replace planks that have already been laid without causing damage.

Start by pulling the last installed plank out from the short side of the locking mechanism until it is fully disengaged, using a block with double sided tape if necessary. Once released from the short side, angle the plank upward to disengage it from the long side of the locking mechanism.

Repeat this process in reverse installation order until the specific plank that needs to be removed is reached.

## Finishing

- Remove all the spacers and make sure the 10mm or greater expansion gap is left around the perimeter. Protect all exposed flooring edges by fitting wall skirting, scotia, or trims. Ensure no downward pressure is applied to the boards. It is recommended that a minimum 0.5mm gap allowance is given where the accessories meet the boards. 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 pads or mats.

**IMPORTANT: The use of silicone or caulking compound is not allowed around the perimeter of the installation.**

# Installation Instructions – Over Heated Slab

9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring, due to its great stability, can be installed over hydronic heated slabs (ONLY). It needs to be installed as per the guidelines specified below to avoid compromising your flooring warranty, other floor heating systems are not covered by our warranty.

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. Always lay a 200um plastic moisture barrier first before installing the 9mm Hybrid Herringbone Flooring. Please also note that the heating system being used must be installed and operated in compliance with the guidelines of the heating and/or other manufacturers guidelines. Refer to our 9mm Hybrid Herringbone flooring installation instructions or contact us for more information.

1. The in-slab under floor hydronic heating needs to be started and run at desired temperature for at least 14 days prior to installation.

**NOTE: The slab surface temperature must not exceed 26°C at any time.**

2. After 14 days, turn off the slab heating and allow 4 days to pass in order to allow the subfloor to cool down and reach room temperature before installation.

**DO NOT STORE ANY FLOORBOARDS IN THE DWELLING DURING Steps 1 & 2.**

3. Make sure the room temperature is minimum 16°C during the installation and the temperature of heated slab surface does not exceed 26°C at any time.
4. Leave 10mm expansion gap as per normal installation guidelines.
5. After floor installation is complete, your hybrid requires gradual climatisation in conjunction with the heating system. Heating system temperature is to be increased by 2 degrees increments each day until desired temperature is reached (not exceeding 26 degrees Celsius) and when turning your heating off, also decrease by 2 degrees increments each day until it is off.
6. Using in-floor temperature sensor is highly recommended to avoid overheating.

Please always contact your local retailer for the most up-to date version of this installation instructions, warranty, and care & maintenance as it may have been revised and updated.