



empress

HYBRID FLOORING

Installation Instructions

Empress Hybrid Flooring Installation Requirements

Floated

Floated Floor Method: Yes

Underlay Required: No

Adhesive: No

Raft Size	Expansion Gap Around Installation Perimeter	Black 200um Plastic
Up to 15m(l) x 12m(w)	12mm	No
Max Allowance Raft Size 30m(l) x 15m(w)	Raft sizes larger than 15m(l) x 12m(w) require and ADDITIONAL 0.5mm expansion gap per meter	Yes

Direct Stick

Direct Stick Method: No

Wastage: 5-10%

Nailed / Screwed to subfloor: No

Hydronic Heated Slab: Yes

Products Tested by the Manufacturer for use during installation

Floated

SelectGuard

9mm Hybrid 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.
- Planks showing visible manufacturing defects should never be installed. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact your retailer before proceeding further with the installation. If deemed defective by the manufacturer, these boards will be replaced prior to the installation.
- Once installed, all boards are deemed to be accepted. Claims resulting from the installation of such planks will not be honoured.
- Hybrid 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, Hybrid 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 damages 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 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.
- Handle with care. **DO NOT** stand packs on their ends.
- When Hybrid Flooring is ordered, allow approximately 5%-10% for wastage and off-cuts, depending upon size or layout of the room or installation area.

Installation tools, accessories & materials

- 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, multitool, 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) or those with separate rooms will require compartmentalisation with the use of a 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 at least 50mm wide.

Wet Areas

Hybrid 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 Hybrid Floor.
- Hybrid 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.

Hybrid 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 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 straightedge, 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 selflevelling 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.

Hybrid Flooring Installation Instructions for Floating Floor Method

IMPORTANT:

- Proceed with a visual inspection of the boards before installation. Once installed, the boards are considered accepted by the installer and the homeowner.
- Hybrid flooring must be installed as 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.
- Step and brick stagger patterns are not permitted, the installer must randomly stagger end joints for best visual appeal and structural integrity. These style of set outs will not be covered under warranty as they can lead to bouncing, structural instability and breaking of joints.
- The use of silicone or caulking compound is not allowed throughout the installation.
- For any installation area greater than 15m in length and/or 12m in width 200um black plastic should be used as a layer between the subfloor and the floated hybrid floorboards. The use of black plastic allows the hybrid floorboards to move more easily as the raft expands/contracts with environmental changes.
- 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.

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. 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 Hybrid Flooring.

After cleaning the subfloor, you can start the installation.

During installation, installers should open a few cartons at a time to ensure colour variations between boards are blended throughout the installation.

The boards should be fitted lengthways towards the main incoming light source and, where possible, down the length of the room. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel where possible.

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.

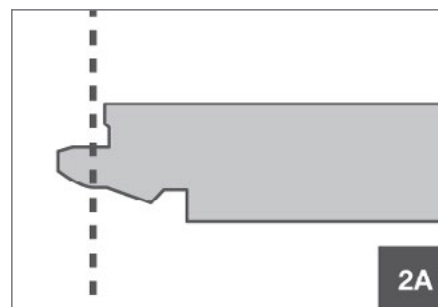
When cutting Hybrid Flooring, it is recommended to cut with the decorative side up by using a Utility Knife and 'Score and Snap'. Alternatively, you can also use a Jigsaw to cut the long side of the plank with the decorative side down.

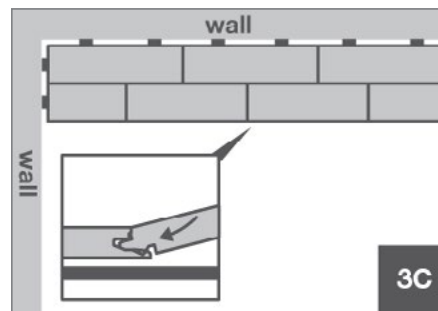
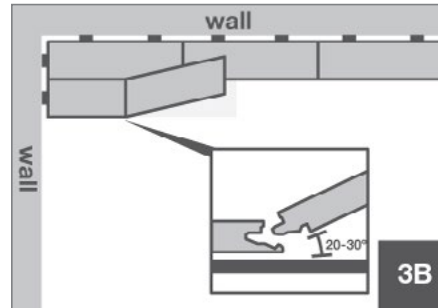
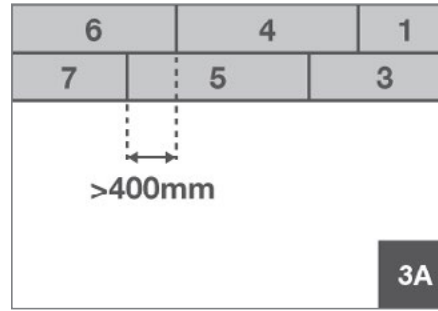
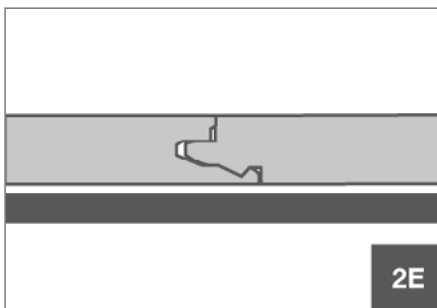
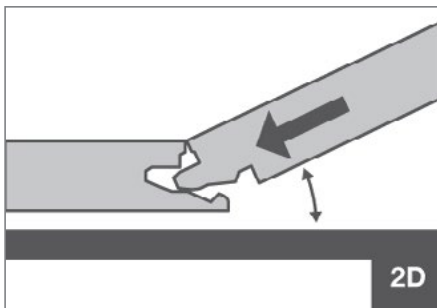
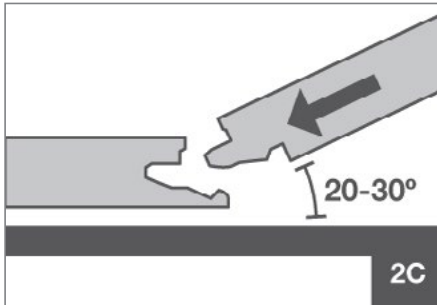
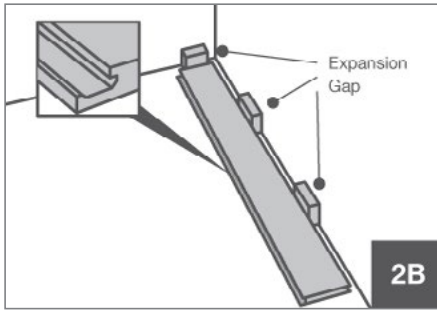
2. Installing the first row

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 (2A). 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 (2B). Position the short side of the next plank to be installed at an angle of 20-30° to the first plank already installed (2C). Move the plank gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure (2D). The planks will automatically click into place (2E).

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.





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, without applying excessive force.

3. Installing the second row

Use a cut piece of plank at least 400mm long to start the second row.

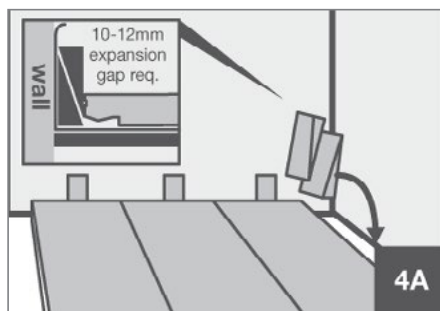
Always ensure that the end joints are randomly staggered at least 400mm apart. Step and brick stagger patterns are not permitted, the boards must be randomly staggered (3A).

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 (3B). 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 (3C). Repeat the same steps for the next 3-4 planks and then start the third row piece of plank at least 400mm long to start the second row.

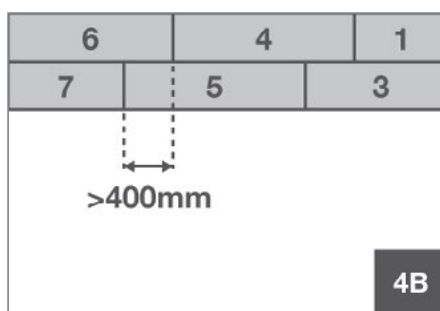
4. Installing the third row

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 (4A).



It is critical to keep the first three rows straight and square as their alignment will affect the rest of the installation.

Always ensure that the end joints are randomly staggered at least 400mm apart (4B).

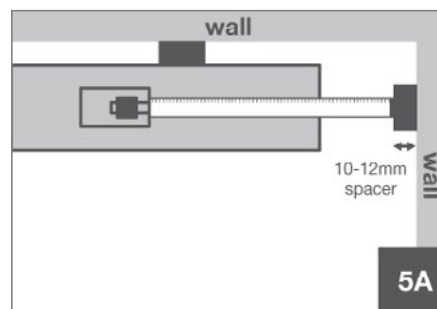


DO NOT TAP THE SHORT SIDES OF THE PLANK AT ANY TIME (4C).



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 (5A). 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.

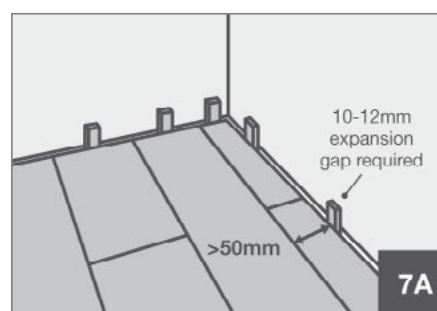
Avoid using force on end joints as it will damage the locking mechanism.

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.

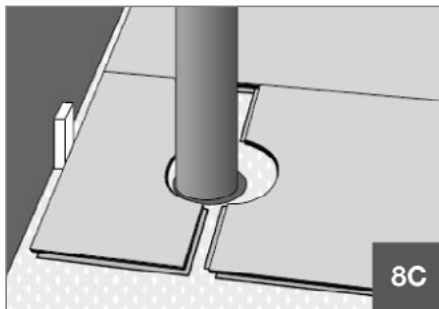
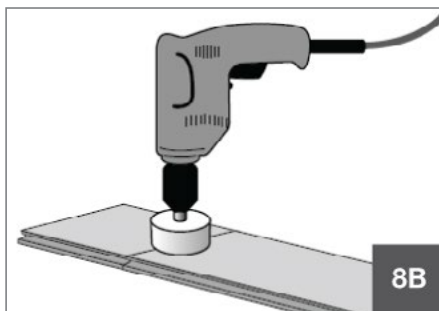
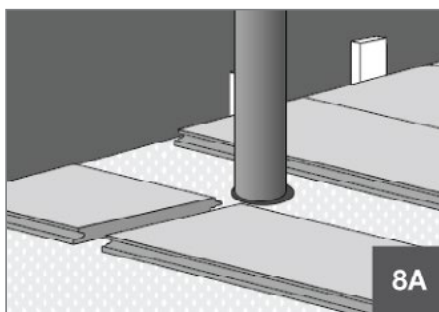
7. Laying the last row

Measure and cut the plank, it must be a minimum 50mm in width. Leave a 10-12mm expansion gap to the wall (7A).



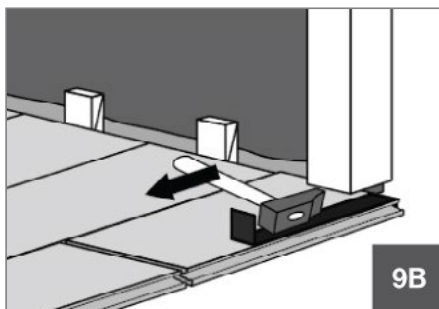
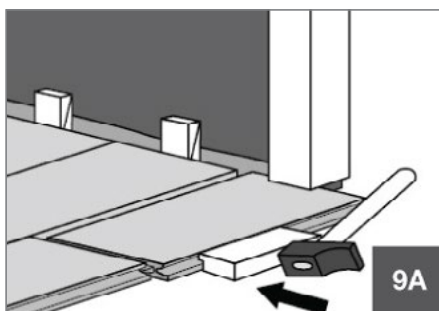
8. Holes for pipes

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 (8A-8C).



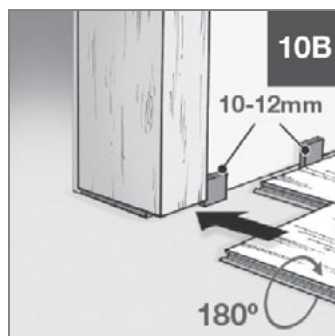
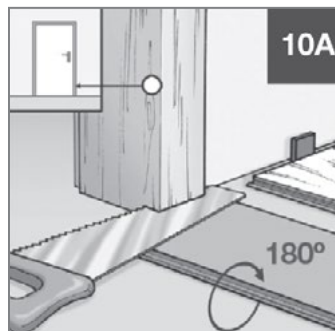
9. Under door frames

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 (9A) or pull bar and hammer (9B) to tap the planks together with the planks flat against the floor until it clicks into place.



10. Door moulding & 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 (10A). Cut the plank and slide it under the moulding (10B).



11. Lifting or removing planks

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.

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 or greater 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.

Installation Instructions – Over Heated Slab

Hybrid 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 hybrid 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 Hybrid flooring installation instructions or contact us for more information.

1. The in-slab under floor 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 degrees Celsius at all times.

2. After 14 days, turn off slab heating and allow 4 days to pass in order to allow 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 visit our website www.asttimbers.com.au for the most up-to date version of this installation instructions, warranty, and care & maintenance as it may have been revised and updated.