



Nouvelle Acoustic Flooring Installation Instructions

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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.
- Hybrid 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 based on 15m in length and/or 12m in width (raft size). Greater raft sizes (Maximum 30m in the length and/or 15m in the width) require an **ADDITIONAL 0.5mm per meter** expansion gap around the perimeter. In addition, the use of 100um black plastic film is required prior to the commencement of installation.
- Avoid using solvents of any kind to clean the floor. Methylated Spirits, Turpentine, Bleach, Ammonia, Eucalyptus, Citrus and/or similar solutions will damage the floor surface and will void the warranty.

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Acclimatisation & Site inspection

- Nouvelle Acoustic Flooring must be installed in a regulated and liveable environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. As such, Nouvelle Acoustic Flooring **SHOULD NOT** be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home.
- Nouvelle Acoustic 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 Nouvelle Acoustic 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 Nouvelle Acoustic Flooring, you must leave an expansion gap around the perimeter of the room of 10-12mm (based on 15m in length and/or 12m in width raft size) to prevent binding of the flooring. The planks must not be glued or tacked to the subfloor in any way.

Additional 0.5mm expansion gap per metre is required if the installation area is greater than 15m in length and/or 12m in width. Install 100um black plastic film first for any installation area greater than 15m in length and/or 12m in width.

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

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Cutting the planks

When cutting Nouvelle Acoustic 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 30m 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 at least 50mm wide.

Wet Areas

Nouvelle Acoustic 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.
- Nouvelle Acoustic 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** leave water on the floor for more than 5 mins.
- **DO NOT** leave wet towels or bathmats on the floor for any length of time.

Underfloor Heating

Nouvelle Acoustic Flooring can be installed over hydronic heated slabs.

DO NOT INSTALL NOUVELLE ACOUSTIC 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 measuring

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, multitool, drop saw, and undercut saw
- Small hand tools associated with woodworking
- Expansion wedges (Suitable sized spacer blocks of plastic or wood)

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- Suitable adhesive, moisture barrier, and residue remover
- Trims
- Scotia
- Stair Nosing
- **SelectGuard 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 Nouvelle Acoustic 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

Nouvelle Acoustic 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-bond 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 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

Nouvelle Acoustic flooring has attached a 1.5mm cork underlay which is adequate for most residential and commercial 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 AUTHORISATION FROM THE MANUFACTURER MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO THE INSTALLATION.

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Installation

1. Getting started

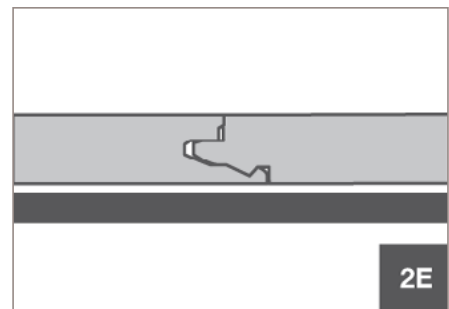
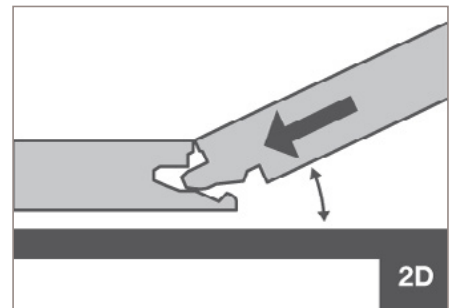
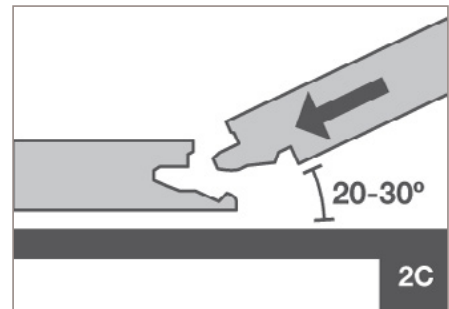
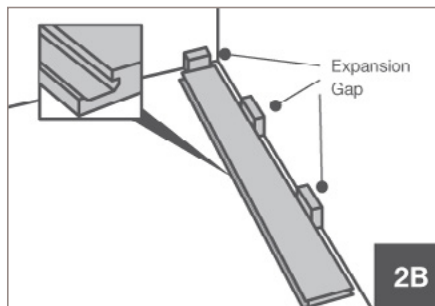
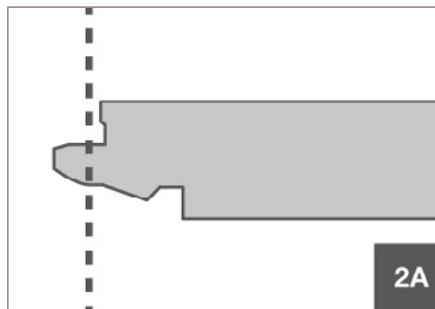
Check the planks before you start to make sure that they are not in any way damaged or have quality defects. After cleaning the subfloor, you can start the installation.

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.



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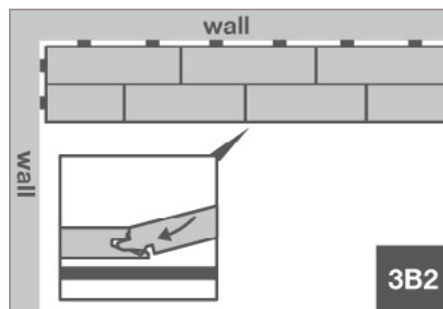
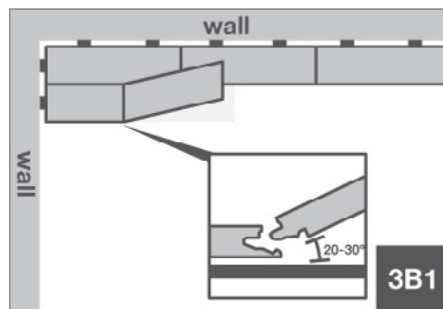
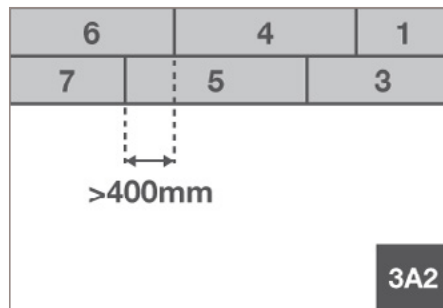
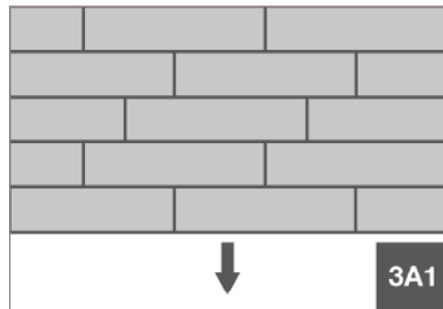
3. Second row

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

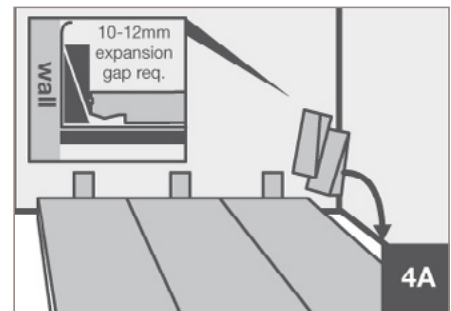


You can tap the long side of the plank into the groove by using a professional tapping block. The planks should not be joined by a single tap. To avoid damaging the planks, you must tap them together gradually.

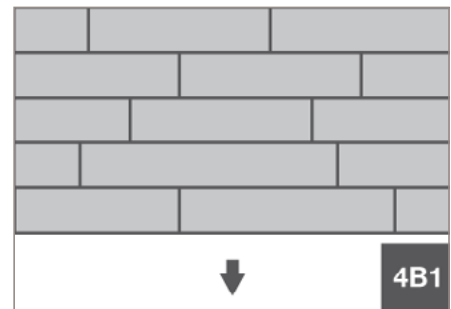
DO NOT APPLY FORCE ON END JOINTS AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

4. Third row

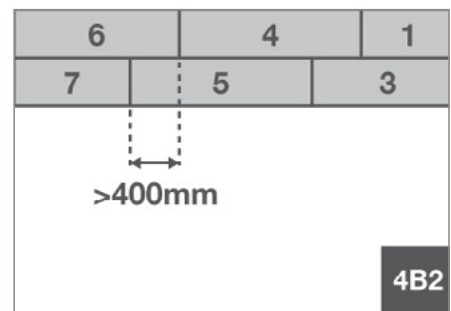
Start the third row in the same way as the second row. It is practical to adjust the expansion gap between the long sides and the wall when three rows have been installed. Ensure a 10-12mm expansion gap to the wall is left with the use of spacers.



It is 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.



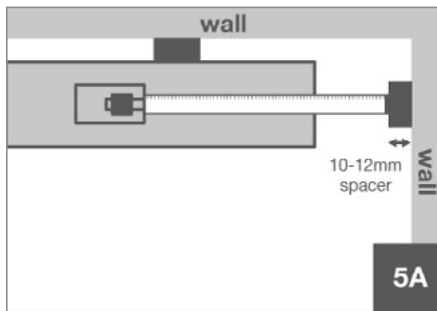
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DO NOT TAP THE SHORT SIDES OF THE PLANK AT ANY TIME.



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

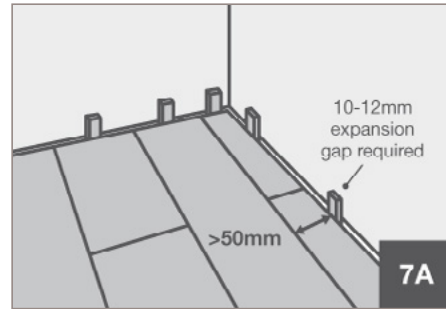
Repeat the same process row by row. Check to be certain that the locking mechanism on all planks are fully engaged. If gapping is noticed or the planks are not laid flat, simply disengage the long side by lifting up and then carefully tilt and lift the short side.

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.

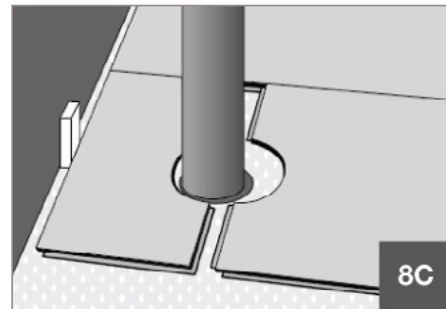
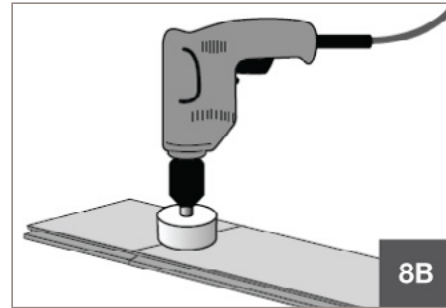
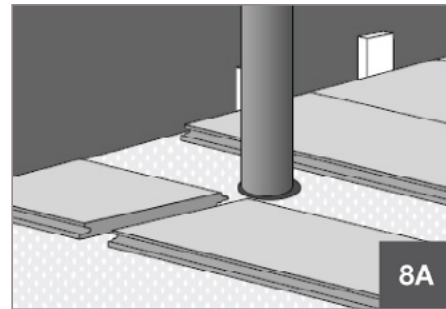
7. Laying the last row

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

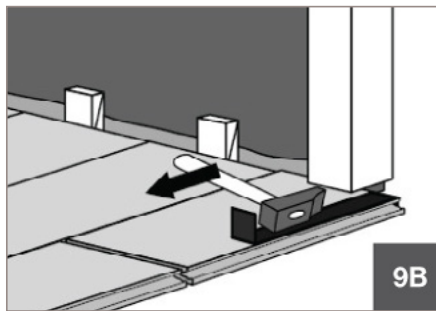
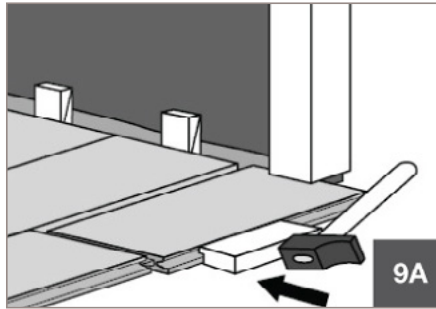
Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20-24mm larger to allow for expansion. Saw off a piece and then lay the plank in place on the floor.



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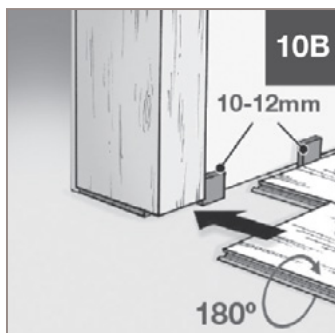
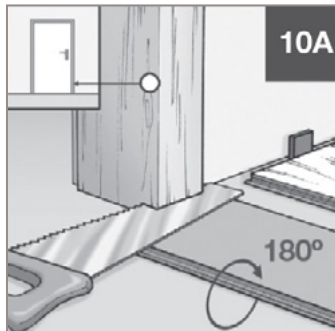
9. Under door frames

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 & 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 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.

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.

