

Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles Installation Guidelines

Products covered: Alpine & Alpine Artisan – 3.00mm & 5.0mm / 0.55mm wear layer
 Alpine Artisan – 3.00mm/ 0.55mm wear layer
 Urban, Wood, Fresh – 2.5mm & 5.0mm / 0.55mm wear layer

General conditions

A good preparation is essential for a smooth installation. Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles can be installed on concrete, timber, ceramic and many other sub-floors which have been suitably prepared. The effective application of Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles is dependent on suitable site conditions. Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles must not be installed either externally or into unheated locations. It is possible to install Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles flooring over floors incorporating underground heating, but these must be insulated to ensure surface temperature does not exceed 27°C. It is recommended on a new concrete slab that the heating is operational for several days prior to installation to reduce moisture in slab. Three days prior to installation, lower to 18°C. 24 hours post installation, gradually increase in increments of 3°C per day until it reaches the maximum operating temperature of 28°C, before being turned back to its normal household temperature.

Acclimatisation

Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles performs to its specifications when laid at room temperature between 18°C – 28°C. The product should be acclimatised within the room it is to be laid at least 24 hours prior to installation. A constant temperature, fluctuating no more than 3°C per day and not below the required 18°C room temperature and 15°C floor temperature, should be maintained 24 hours before, during and after installation. It is preferable that the packs are stored lying flat, stacked squarely and away from vents and direct sunlight. It is recommended that you black out windows where direct sunlight streams in onto the floor to allow for continuity across the whole area to be laid.

Substrate preparation

The installer is responsible if the flooring is installed with obvious defects or on an unsuitable or poorly prepared subfloor. Installation should comply with Australian Standard AS1884-2012 & New Zealand Standard NZS/AS 1884:2013 for Floor Coverings – Resilient Sheet and Tiles – Installation Practices. Installation will require an assessment of site and building conditions and appropriate judgement by the installer. If you are unsure about any aspect of the installation, please contact your relevant Account Manager or Airly Customer Service.

Concrete should be dry to a minimum of 75% using an in-situ moisture test AST F2170, as specified in Australian and NZ Standard, 1884-2012. If the dampness exceeds 75%, a waterproof system is suggested before installation begins.

Careful sub-floor preparation as per AS 1884-2012 is vital for an excellent floor appearance and good installation. The sub-floor must be hard, flat, smooth, clean, dry, and free from defects, contaminants and fit for purpose. A suitable levelling compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including smoothing and levelling compounds and any ancillary products is dependent upon the end use of the completed flooring, and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor. Any proprietary materials used for floor preparation must be used in accordance with the manufacturers' recommended instructions. In all cases, the sub-floor must be sufficiently dry and the relative humidity (RH) checked to ensure it is not greater than that of any proprietary materials that are being used when tested in accordance with AS 1884-2012 Appendix A. Direct-to-earth concrete and stone sub-floors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM). Follow manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface DPM and the use of levelling compound. All particle board substrates require an underlay or underlayment. The finished appearance of Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles floor will be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the sub-floor will show through the finished floor.

Pre-Installation

1. Ensure that all Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles are from the same batch and that there is no damage to the boards or visual defects on the print layer
2. Before installation, check all panels in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour or sheen.
3. Check the edges of the Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles for damage and straightness.
4. For best, results mix at least two packs when fitting to avoid repetitions in the pattern. It is also preferable only to use material from the same batch in a single room. Lay the products in the same direction they come out of the box mixing planks from different boxes.
5. The surface beneath the floor must be sufficiently prepared in advance to guarantee successful fitting of the floor covering.

Recommended Adhesives

Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles is recommended to be installed with **Airly Universal Vinyl Adhesive (UVA)** which is a solvent free 'hard set' adhesive. It is to be installed with a V1 trowel. If you are installing Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles in rooms that have floor to ceiling windows which are exposed to prolonged periods of direct sunlight, we recommend that the use of polyurethane adhesive. For domestic wet areas such as bathrooms, kitchens and laundries, Polyurethane adhesive may be required.

Important

Floor installation should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the sub-floor and conditions.

Step by step fitting instructions

The installation of Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles follows the same guidelines that apply to all quality resilient floors and needs to be laid according to AS 1884- 2012.

1. Determine the installation direction of the Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles floor. Calculate how the partition of plank or tiles will be across the width of the room/area and mark a 100% straight line on the floor.
2. Highlight the second line to create the section (for example, 5 rows wide) to be glued with the appropriate type of adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive, read the supplier instructions.
3. Spread the right amount of adhesive equally over the sub-floor and let it dry (open time) until it reaches its initial bonding strength. For more information, consult the specifications of the adhesive.
4. Lay the planks or tiles, respecting the direction of the arrows of the backing, into the sticky adhesive in order to transfer the adhesive fully on the backing (working time).
5. We recommend laying the planks in a random brick pattern, with the end joins being a minimum of 150mm (15cm) apart.
6. Cut the planks or tiles tight against the wall or skirting. Use a sharp utility knife to cut the surface of the plank, you may need to score twice. Open up the cut by bending the plank and then finish the process by cutting through the back of the plank. Always place the factory edges together rather than the cut you have made, this will ensure a cleaner join.
7. Do not spread adhesive on a section greater than can be processed within the working time.
8. To ensure full contact with adhesive, immediately press every plank or tile with a hand roller.
9. Wipe excess adhesive with a damp cloth.
10. Roll each section with a roller of a minimum 40kg immediately after installation and several times in different directions during the working time.
11. Repeat steps 3 to 10 until the entire installation is completed.

Note: It is preferable that planks run parallel to incoming sunlight, it is accepted that this is not always possible given the layout of the job and jobs running over multiple rooms.

During installation we recommend that the temperature be controlled between 18oC – 28oC and vary by no more than 3°C, this environment must be maintained for 24 hours prior, during and after installation. Planks must be installed tight against as walls. If you are installing Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles in rooms that have floor to ceiling windows which are exposed to direct sunlight, we recommend that the use of polyurethane adhesive, and that windows are blocked out 24 hours prior to, during and after installation to keep the direct sunlight from the floor during the curing process.

Protection

Airly Luxury Vinyl Tiles should be protected from heavy traffic for 72 hours after installation so that the planks and adhesive can stabilise at consistent temperature between 18°C - 28°C.

First contact with water

Prevent the floor from coming into contact with water for the first 72 hours after installation. Hereafter the adhesive is sufficiently resistant to water so that the bonding strength will not be affected. For any assistance please contact Airly Floorcoverings on (03) 9359 4705. Warranty and cleaning and maintenance information is available from your place of purchase.