



Installation and Maintenance Manual

TIMBERLAND 4.5 VINYL

*Recommendations for the Installation and
Maintenance of **Artifloor's Timberland 4.5**
Vinyl Planks for Residential and Commercial
Use*

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Overview

When properly installed, 4.5mm LVT will not contract or expand beyond the tolerance.

Unlike "floating" floors such as laminate, WPC, SPC, this LVT does not have a locking system. Our LVT does not need to float to accommodate dimensional changes based on seasons, thus it does not require the traditional perimeter expansion gaps seen with other flooring types. Instead, it should always be installed flush to the room's boundaries, tight against baseboards or wall edges, with each panel and tile closely fitted across the entire floor. In fact, our product has such exceptional dimensional stability that it doesn't necessarily need to be glued down.

Pre-Installation

Product Inspection

- Carefully inspect the product prior to installation. Check that the colors correspond to those ordered, the quantities are correct and there is no visible damage to the boxes. Check the vinyl planks or tiles during installation for any visible defects.
- If the flooring is not to an acceptable standard, please contact your retailer immediately and arrange for replacement. Do not install any planks or tiles that display any imperfections.¹

It is recommended to always use materials from a single production batch for each installation, as we cannot guarantee a shade match between different batches.

Considerations

- This product is only suitable for indoor installation.
- Expansion gaps around the room's borders or between planks are unnecessary, as the product can be installed against existing baseboards or perimeter walls.
- Do not install the product on unsuitable surfaces such as plywood that has been installed directly on concrete or plywood that is delaminating, pressboard, floating floors like SPC, WPC, or laminate, non-approved plywood, hardboard, screed systems, strip plank wood flooring, or surfaces contaminated with oil, chemicals, or mold.
- If installing over existing flooring, repair any damage to ensure a flat subsurface. Imperfections in the old flooring can show through over time.
- The finished appearance and ease of installation of the LVT tend to be better in more square-shaped installation spaces. Additionally, the direction of LVT installation can influence the visual outcomes.
- Equipment needed includes a broom and dustpan, vacuum cleaner, straight and square edge ruler, tape measure, razor knife or box cutter, trowel or paint roller with a long handle, and optionally, a small hand guillotine for efficient plank cutting.

Product Acclimation

For optimal installation results, store the product in the room where it is to be laid for at least 48 hours prior to installation, with the room's environment adjusted according to the following:

- **Room Temperature:** Between 8°C (64°F) and 27°C (80°F);
- **Relative Humidity:** Between 35% and 55%;
- **Moisture Content of Flooring:** Between 6% and 10%.

For more effective acclimatisation, place the boxes individually on the floor or even remove the products from the boxes.

Where possible, shade windows to avoid direct, intense sunlight on the product.

Sub-Floor Preparation

It is important to ensure the sub-floor is as level and smooth as possible before installing the planks. A thoroughly prepared sub-floor, free from any unevenness, cracks, and holes, will ensure the finest appearance of our product. Given the material's properties, our product can adapt to slight irregularities, making it more tolerant to minor surface flaws.

For perfect sub-floor preparation, the following requirements, in accordance to AS: 1884-2012 Standard Guidelines, are necessary:

- The sub-floor should be expertly fitted and built to avoid any vertical or horizontal shifts that could disrupt the placement of the planks and tiles.
- The sub-floor needs to be clean, without any dust, soil, or residue from previous sub-floor repairs or preparations.
- Use a floor leveling compound to fill any noticeable cracks and holes. Additionally, ceramic tiles will likely be grouted.
- For wooden bases, there should be at least 18 inches of clearance between the sub-floor and the ground, with all crawl spaces properly ventilated.
- The sub-floor must be completely dry. Our product should not be installed over areas with moisture signs, as it could lead to mold development under the flooring. The maximum moisture emission from newly poured and set concrete should not exceed 3lbs/1000 sq ft/24 hours, with a Relative Humidity of 75% - 80% (ASTM2170) and a pH range between 5 and 9.
- Wood-based sub-floors like plywood, OSB, or OFB, should have a moisture content of no more than 10% throughout before installation.
- Concrete that has been recently poured needs to cure for at least 28 days.
- We advise using an electronic moisture meter to accurately assess moisture levels in newly set concrete, ensuring the sub-floor is up to specification before laying the flooring, and a pin-type metre for wooden bases to achieve the same end.

Installation Instructions

1. Adjust Room Temperature

Ensure the room temperature is adjusted to and able to maintain a constant temperature between 18°C and 27°C for the entire duration of the installation.

2. Clean Sub-Floor

Prepare the floor by thoroughly cleaning it. Ensure the sub-floor is completely clean, dry, and flat.

3. Apply Adhesive and Wait Until Tacky

Use your hard set adhesive product of choice and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions. Then, wait until it becomes tacky leaving no residue on hands before starting the installation.

In areas that may be subject to excessive direct heat 45°C or above (e.g. fully glazed sun facing conservatories), the product must be installed with high temperature adhesive.

Please note that applying a permanent bond adhesive could complicate or restrict future adjustments or replacements of planks or tiles. Moreover, the use of such an adhesive might invalidate the warranty for our LVT.

3a. For *Perimeter* Installations

Apply pressure-sensitive adhesive only within 9" to 18" of the room's outer edges. Central planks require no adhesive if they are fitted snugly together.

3b. For Full Spread Installations

(Recommended for commercial spaces; optional for residential areas)

Using hard set adhesive in high-traffic areas can be effective for replacing or repositioning damaged single planks. For 2.0mm, 2.5mm, and 3.0mm options, although they are dimensionally stable, the use of the full spread adhesive method should be determined based on the installation environment and future maintenance plans.

4. Lay Planks and Apply Immediate Pressure

Begin laying planks from one corner and trim to fit. Use cut-off pieces to stagger rows. Never start a row with a piece under 6 inches.

Align all planks tightly with zero gaps throughout the process.

Roll over planks multiple times in various directions using a 50KG+ roller or rubbing block during the adhesive working time.

5. Allow Curing and Setting

Leave the completed floor fully undisturbed for 72 hours. Do not allow any foot traffic or furniture installation during this time.

6. First Use

Once installation is completed, clean the surface of the floor with warm water and pH neutral detergent.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Regular Maintenance

Daily Cleaning

Use a soft dry broom or a vacuum cleaner.

Weekly Cleaning

Use pH neutral detergent in water with a fringed mop or a floor cloth.

Periodic Maintenance

Use a pH neutral detergent with water and a nylon brush.

- After brushing, eliminate the dirty water using a floor scraper by rinsing with clean water.
- Dry with a floor cloth.

UV Protection

Tinted windows are highly recommended to protect the vinyl flooring from direct sunlight, as direct sunlight may cause colour fading over time.

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Disclaimer

¹ Artifloor is not responsible for flooring installed with visible defects.

² The responsibility regarding the quality of the adhesives and its use in accordance with the recommendations of the adhesive manufacturer is the responsibility of the adhesive manufacturers and the installers, respectively. Artifloor cannot be held responsible for any failure resulting from use of chosen adhesives.