



Installation and Maintenance Manual

HYBRID 9.5

*Recommendations for the Installation and
Maintenance of **Artifloor's Hybrid 9.5** Planks
for Residential and Commercial Use*

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Overview

When properly installed, Evolution Premium Generation Hybrid Flooring functions as a high-performance floating floor system.

Unlike traditional luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) that are glued flush to boundaries, this hybrid flooring features an advanced click locking system that requires room to accommodate natural structural shifts. The floor must remain entirely free to move independently of any perimeter walls, door frames, or solid vertical fixtures to prevent architectural buckling, peaking, or joint fatigue

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 hybrid product is strictly engineered for indoor installation only.
- Do not install the flooring in areas exposed to excessive moisture, such as outdoor living spaces, saunas, or directly surrounding pools.
- Do not lay the planks over structurally compromised substrates or surfaces contaminated with chemicals, oil, or existing active mould.
- Essential installation equipment includes:
 - ☐ Soft broom,
 - ☐ Tape measure,
 - ☐ Spacer blocks,
 - ☐ Masking tape,
 - ☐ Soft white No.2 rubber mallet,
 - ☐ Tapping block,
 - ☐ Crosslinked PVA glue²,
 - ☐ One appropriate pull bar, and
 - ☐ Specialised moisture meters.

Product Acclimation

For optimal installation results, store the product in the room where it is to be laid for at least 24 hours prior to installation, with the room's environment adjusted according to the following:

- **Room Temperature:** Between 10°C (50°F) and 28°C (82.4°F);
- **Stacking Configuration:**
 - Store boxes unopened,
 - Flat on the ground,
 - Maximum height of 4 cartons per stack,
 - Minimum distance of 300mm for open-space gaps between individual stacks.

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

Sub-Floor Preparation

A flat, smooth, clean, and dry subfloor is mandatory. Subfloor preparation must comply strictly with ATFA guidelines and Australian Standards AS 1884:2012, satisfying these benchmarks:

- **Level Tolerance:** Floor surface variance must not exceed 3mm under a 3m straight edge. Uneven zones must be sanded down (timber) or flattened via grinding and industrial self-leveling compounds (concrete/tiles).
- **Existing Tile Linings:** Can be installed over ceramic or PVC tiles if securely fixed. Existing grout lines must not exceed 3mm in width or depth; wider gaps require an approved leveling compound skim coat.
- **Moisture Testing:** Run mandatory electronic moisture meter checks. Damp substrates promote subsurface bacteria, odour development, and structural mould growth.
- **Large Layout Film:** It is highly recommended to lay down a 100µm black plastic moisture film across large operational installation areas before setting planks.
- **Underfloor Heating Integration:** Activate in-slab hydronic heating systems for a minimum of 2 consecutive weeks prior to laying boards to condition the subfloor fully. Turn off the slab heating 4 to 6 days before installation to let the surface reach baseline room temperature. The slab surface temperature must never exceed 26°C.
- **Stairs Setup:** Strip the underlying acoustic foam backing off the boards entirely before adhering them straight onto treads and risers using a high-strength polyurethane or MS polymer adhesive. Install matching stair nosings complying with local state slip-testing safety criteria.

Installation Instructions

1. Adjust Room Temperature

Ensure the room temperature is adjusted to and able to maintain a constant temperature between 10°C and 28°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. Plan Layout Limits

Ensure your continuous floating floor segment does not exceed 20m x 20m in total width or length. If the room configuration spans larger than these metrics, dedicated expansion joints must be added.

4. Prepare Door Jambs

Undercut all door frames and structural timber jambs completely.

Clear away any underlying debris to enable the hybrid flooring panels to slide smoothly underneath with a clean 1mm clearance gap left above the product surface.

5. Establish Baseline Rows

Begin row alignment in the right-hand corner of the installation area, working progressively from left to right.

Place the side and short-end seam grooves facing outward towards the center of the room. Insert perimeter spacer blocks along walls to secure a mandatory, even 8 to 10mm expansion gap (extending up to 10-12mm depending on structural perimeter trim requirements).

6. Secure Board Joins

To keep your starting foundation perfectly straight, press high-quality masking tape across the short-end locking joints of the first two completed rows.

Remove this tape as soon as the final floor layout is completed.

7. Engage the Clicking System

Fit successive planks in the first row by aligning the short-end tongue directly into the short-end groove of the previous plank.

Press down firmly on the connection point or use a soft, white No.2 rubber mallet to tap it vertically into position until it locks with an audible click.

For consecutive rows, insert the long side tongue at a shallow angle into the groove of the preceding row, slide it leftward to meet the adjacent board, and lower it while applying firm forward pressure.

8. Stagger Joint Positions

Maintain a natural, random wood look across rows by ensuring all plank end-joints are offset and staggered by a minimum distance of 400mm from the joints of neighboring rows.

9. Complete the Perimeter Row

The final row of planks running lengthwise must measure no less than 50mm in width along the cut edge.

Apply crosslinked PVA wood glue to safely anchor the end joins of this final row.²

When locking planks around door thresholds, trim off the raised locking tongue, spread PVA adhesive over the joint, and pull the panels tight using an installation pull bar.

10. Set Up Post-Install Protections

Pull out all temporary perimeter spacers.

Nail or glue skirting boards and scotias directly to the perimeter wall structures. Do not pin or attach mouldings directly into the floorboards.

If other construction trades must work in the space after flooring is laid, lay down a clean, breathable protective cover.

Never wrap the floor in non-breathable plastic sheets, which trap ambient humidity and distort the boards.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Regular Maintenance

Daily Debris Removal

Sweep the floor regularly or clear dirt with a dedicated hard-floor vacuum setting.

Avoid vacuums fitted with active beater bars or high-speed rotating brushes, as these components will score the finish.

Entrance Barriers

Place durable outdoor and indoor rugs at every external threshold to capture tracking mud, grit, and moisture before it reaches the floorboards.

Mopping Protocol

Wipe the surfaces with a microfibre mop lightly dampened with clean water mixed with a pH-neutral cleaner explicitly formulated for hybrid floors.

Prohibited Chemical Agents

Never clean your floors with ammonia-based surface sprays, acrylic gloss finishes, wax coatings, industrial bleach, oil soaps, abrasive scouring detergents, or acidic home remedies like vinegar.

Household Care

Keep domestic pet claws neatly trimmed to minimize accidental surface score-marks.

Stick soft felt pads or dense plastic protective mats underneath all furniture legs.

Periodic Maintenance

Immediate Liquid Clean

Never flood or wet-mop the floorboards.

If drinks, water, or other liquids spill, blot them up immediately using a soft dry cloth to prevent staining and protect your warranty.

Sticky Residue Removal

Rub stubborn sticky spots gently with a soft cloth dampened with water and a mild, diluted household detergent.

Tough Stain Protocol

For persistent stains like red wine, oils, or ink, blot using a clean microfibre cloth dampened with a gentle mix of water and mild detergent.

Scratch and Panel Repairs

Treat minor surface scratches with a color-matched hybrid flooring repair kit sourced from your supplier.

If boards suffer severe structural damage, contact a professional flooring contractor to handle individual plank replacement

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

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

²The 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.