



Installation and Maintenance Manual

TERRACORE HYBRID A7

*Recommendations for the Installation and
Maintenance of **ArtiFloor's Terracore Hybrid
(A7 Series)** Planks for Residential and
Commercial Use*

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Overview

Terracore Hybrid (A7 Series) is a high-performance hybrid SPC floating floor system featuring an advanced click-locking system.

The flooring requires sufficient expansion space to allow natural movement and prevent buckling, peaking, or joint damage.

Under normal installation conditions, expansion gaps must remain unfilled and should be covered with skirting boards or scotia.

In areas exposed to occasional water spills, such as kitchens, an approved flexible, low-modulus neutral-cure silicone sealant may be used at the affected perimeter over a compressible PE foam backer rod. This is a conditional water-entry precaution and does not make the floor waterproof.

Where one side is sealed, the opposite side must remain unsealed, with the required expansion gap unobstructed so the floor can move freely. Other perimeter gaps must also remain free of rigid filling or restrictions.

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 planks 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 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,
 - Approved installation tools and materials as required for the specific installation (do not glue click joints as standard practice),
 - 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.

Shade windows as needed. Avoid installations where the floor will be exposed to prolonged, intense direct sunlight, including unsuitable sunrooms.

Sub-Floor Preparation

The subfloor must be flat, smooth, clean, dry and structurally sound. Follow applicable requirements of AS 1884:2021 and the Terracore A7 product-specific tolerances below:

- **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:** Direct installation without skim coating is permitted only over securely bonded, sound ceramic or porcelain tiles with no significant lippage, movement, cracking or moisture problems. Grout joints must not exceed 2mm in width AND 2mm in depth, and the entire surface must satisfy the 3mm over 3m flatness tolerance. Where these limits are exceeded, fill affected joints with a suitable levelling compound; repair uneven or damaged tiled surfaces and apply full skim coating where necessary.
- **Moisture Testing*:** Before installation over concrete, test the slab using the in-situ relative-humidity method ASTM F2170 and record the results. ArtiFloor sets a conservative maximum of 80% RH for Terracore A7. Do not install when the measured RH exceeds 80%, or where rising damp, water ingress or persistently humid conditions are present. A surface moisture meter alone is not sufficient for final acceptance.
- **Moisture Barrier:** Install an approved, continuous polyethylene moisture barrier over ALL concrete subfloors, with joints overlapped and sealed according to the barrier manufacturer's instructions to prevent moisture entry. A minimum 100-micron barrier is used for standard installations; use 200-micron barrier in ground-contact or basement locations and for large commercial projects. A moisture barrier is not a substitute for drying or properly remediating a wet slab; do not install over concrete above the 80% RH limit*.
- **Underfloor Heating Integration:** Obtain written confirmation from ArtiFloor that the proposed in-slab heating system and operating temperatures are suitable before installation. Increase temperature gradually and follow the heating-system supplier's requirements. Do not assume the previous 26°C limit is approved until product-specific confirmation has been provided.

- **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.

Additional Underlay:

Terracore A7 has an integral 1.5mm IXPE backing. Do NOT install additional soft or acoustic underlay: it can make the floor too compressible and damage the click joints. Only the specified thin polyethylene moisture barrier may be added where required.

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

Keep each continuous floating-floor section within 20m in length and 20m in width. Provide suitable movement joints at doorways, transitions between rooms and long corridors. For large commercial projects, allow a minimum 15mm perimeter expansion gap, use a 200-micron moisture barrier over concrete and obtain a project-specific movement-joint layout; do not assume the standard 20m x 20m allowance removes the need for intermediate movement joints.

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 centre of the room. Use perimeter spacers to provide a minimum 10mm expansion gap (target 10–12mm) at all walls, frames and other fixed vertical fixtures. For large commercial projects, provide a minimum 15mm perimeter gap.

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.

Do not glue click joints as part of normal floor installation. The final row must be mechanically locked in accordance with the click-system instructions; use adhesive only for an exceptional detail expressly approved by ArtiFloor.

At door thresholds, use appropriate transition trims and the required movement joints. Do not cut off the locking profile or glue click joints as a standard installation method.

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

Avoid prolonged, intense direct sunlight. Use blinds, curtains or suitable window treatments as needed; installation in sunrooms with prolonged direct sun exposure is not recommended.

Haneos Pty Ltd T/A ArtiFloor

ABN: 66 644 657 214

2/23 Secam Street,
Mansfield QLD 4122

Phone: +61 7 3190 3612

Email: info@artifloor.com.au

Website: www.artifloor.com.au

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.

* The 80% RH limit is ArtiFloor's conservative installation requirement, adopted by comparison with published Australian hybrid-flooring guidance; the manufacturer has not independently confirmed a numerical RH limit. For unusual moisture conditions, underfloor heating or complex commercial layouts, obtain project-specific written guidance before installation.