

HYBRID FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDE

PRODUCTS: 9MM HYBRID UNICLIC SYSTEM

Materials shall be installed in accordance with AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS 1884: 2021 Floor Coverings – Resilient Sheet and Tiles – Installation Practices.

Please read and follow all instructions below before installation. Please ensure that a dust mask (minimum P2) is used during installation.

Introduction:

NFD Hybrid flooring is a fully waterproof floating floor suitable for both domestic and commercial purpose. NFD Hybrid flooring can be installed over almost any existing floor structure providing it meets the below requirements. It is suitable for indoor use only and away from prolonged periods of unprotected UV sunlight. It is designed to expand and contract and therefore cannot be fixed at any point and requires a full 3mm expansion around the entire perimeter and vertical surfaces. NFD allows an area of 20mts x 20mts* without transition strips. Expansion join must be used for any length or width exceeding 20mts and repeated thereafter. NFD supplies all matching scotia and also expansions covers and finishing trims. NFD Hybrid must be installed in a controlled environment within the temperature range of 15-27°C.

Pre-Installation Checklist:

Product Checklist:

- ☐ The installer is responsible for inspecting all materials to verify the supplied product is the correct range, colour, batch, quantity, and is free from defects.
- ☐ The installer should verify with the customer to ensure the product's features - such as product, pattern, colour, shade, size, and embossing - meet their expectations. A minimum of 5 boxes should be opened and planks spread out for accurate assessing.
- ☐ Acclimatise planks for a minimum of 4 hours in the installation space, with boxes stacked flat and individually.
- ☐ NFD does not permit mixing batches/dye lots.

Site Checklist:

- ☐ The site temperature should be regulated between 17-27°C for 24 hours before and 48 hours after installation.
- ☐ Extra care should be taken in areas with windows, where direct sunlight can rapidly raise the temperature of the floor above the installation maximum of 27°C and cause 'hot spots'.
- ☐ If such areas are identified, windows should be blacked out for 24 hours before and 48 hours after installation. For guidance on managing direct sunlight exposure after installation, please refer to the NFD Hybrid Warranty document.
- ☐ Subfloor complies with AS/NZS 1884:2021
- ☐ NFD does not recommend this product in rooms with floor waste.

Installation can begin once all the above checks have been completed and approved. If any issues arise from the above checklists, contact your NFD representative immediately for a quick resolution. By completing the installation, you confirm that all the above conditions have been reviewed and accepted. Complaints and claims regarding clearly identifiable errors or defects will not be accepted after installation.

NFD 9mm Hybrid is a floating floor system and should have no single furniture item exceeding 300kg.

Installer Responsibility:

Prior to installing, flooring should be inspected and the installer must determine that the job-site environment and associated subfloor meet or exceed all applicable standards. NFD declines any job failure responsibility resulting from or associated with subfloors, substrates or job-site environmental deficiencies. Construction and material industries recommendations, as well as local statutory codes, must be adhered. It is recommended that the construction and subfloor be flat, dry and structurally sound. Only suitable materials should be used to correct any sub floor defects.

Subfloor Preparation:

All subfloors must be prepared in accordance with AS/NZ 1884:2021 guidelines. This guide provides important steps to assist in the preparation process but does not replace the AS/NZ 1884:2021 standard or those of a certified flooring contractor.

It is recommended that any existing floor coverings or remnants are uplifted and removed along with any adhesive residues. Existing cushioned vinyl is never a suitable subfloor for the installation of Hybrid flooring. This type of existing floor covering must always be uplifted and removed. Please ensure any material being removed is asbestos-free. If asbestos is possible please engage with a registered expert in the handling of the project.

The subfloor must be solid, clean, dry, smooth, flat and level as per AS / NZS 1884. The subfloor must be prepared per the guidelines below for your specific type of subfloor.

- ☐ **Solid:** No Loose tiles, boards, or panels. There should be no movement when walked upon.
- ☐ **Clean:** Free from all dust, dirt and existing residues.
- ☐ **Dry:** The subfloor must have a relative humidity of 80% or less (AS 1884:2021)
- ☐ **Smooth:** No more than 0.5mm abrupt surface deviation below a 150mm straightedge.
- ☐ **Flat:** Height difference should not exceed 4mm over any 2000mm distance
- ☐ **Level:** No more than 10mm in any room and no more than 20mm over the entire footprint.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure the concrete subfloor has a relative humidity content of 80% or less as stated in the Australian Standards. It is advised a probe test be carried out and recorded for security against a floor failing post installation caused by moisture that was not encountered at the time of installation.

If the subfloor isn't concrete and is raised off the ground with direct exposure to external elements, please ensure the ventilation is compliant to AS1884:2021. If ventilation is not sufficient the difference between external and internal temperature could be greatly different causing potential failure of the hybrid. Builders plastic is to be installed over all subfloors sealing all joins. If the subfloor is not covered in this installation guide, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact an NFD representative for clarification before proceeding. Any variation from this document provided by NFD must be in writing before commencing.

Types of Subfloors:

Ceramic Tiles *(The below tolerances are accepted by NFD for 9mm Hybrid only)*

If the Hybrid is installed over ceramic tiles, a few pointers should be noted. Any loose tiles must be secured or removed and filled with a suitable compound. NFD allows for installation over tiles that are within the above smooth, flat and level guides with the exception of grout lines that have a maximum depth no greater than 2mm or no wider than 3mm. All high spots must be removed by grinding or levelled with a flood coat to comply with the above smooth tolerance. If the grout exceeds either of these tolerances, a screed must be applied to meet the above smooth, flat and level standards. A builders plastic must installed prior to the Hybrid Flooring.

Timber Flooring

If the hybrid flooring is installed over existing timber flooring it should also be noted that any loose boards should be secured, any protrusions such as nails etc. should be removed. Failure to do so may result in deficiency of plank performance and/or appearance. Install either Australian Flooring Standard hardboard or structural ply over existing timber flooring to attain the desired and recommended condition of the pre-installation subfloor. Sand and feather finish joins if necessary. A builders plastic must be installed prior to the Hybrid Flooring.

Yellow Tongue/Particle Board

NFD's Hybrid flooring can be installed directly over particle board subfloors, provided a builders plastic is installed prior to the Hybrid Flooring. The subfloor must be within the AS 1884:2021.

Rubber Flooring

NFD recommends the use of acoustic 'PerformancePlus' 3mm rubber cork underlay. The rubber underlay must be installed as per installation instructions, and then a builders plastic must be installed over the rubber before installation of the hybrid flooring. An equivalent underlay can be used providing it is a high-density compound consisting over 650kg/m³.

Painted Surfaces, Vinyl Sheeting & Linoleum

It is recommended that NFD Hybrid, if installed over any painted surface, vinyl sheeting or linoleum that all loose/lifted areas be removed and patched with a suitable compound. The above smooth, flat and level guides must be maintained. A builders plastic must be installed prior to the Hybrid Flooring.

DO NOT:

- At any point, attach/fix Hybrid Plank to subfloor.
- Do not fix trims to the flooring. They must be fixed to vertical surfaces or subfloor.

NFD ALLOWS THE FOLLOWING FOR 9MM HYBRID ONLY

A 3mm perimeter expansion must be maintained however, after installing skirting or scotia, a flexible silicon can be used, providing the skirting is not preventing the hybrid from expanding or contracting.

NFD 9mm hybrid can be installed against vertical island bench tops and cabinetry by leaving a 3mm distance and covering with a flexible silicone sealant. It is recommended that kicks be removed and reinstalled over the hybrid flooring. The silicon must not fill the void but rather cover the gap. Hybrid Planks are not designed to act as a moisture barrier and are not to be installed in potential flooding or standing water areas. In the case of standing water or flooding, any damage caused is not covered by this warranty. It is important to note that any glass windows or openings that encounter direct sunstrike must have a UV reducing film or window coverings to lower thermal rays and therefore heat.

Heating Systems:

Follow the instructions below to install Hybrid Planks over radiant heating systems.

Only Electric radiant heating systems installed into the slab or Hydronic Underfloor systems can be used.

1. The radiant heat surface temperature must not exceed 28°C
2. Use the radiant heating system at maximum capacity to remove any excess moisture before installing.
3. Maintain the room temperature between 15-26°C 24 hours prior to installation.
4. Flooring products must be kept in the same environment for at least 24 hours before use.
5. Apply radiant heat gradually, 24 hours after installation. An increase of temperature must be maintained to less than 2 degrees per hour.

Installation:

1. Prepare all rulers, cutters, spreaders and compass dividers before beginning to work.
2. Check that the colour is as selected. Once installed NFD is not responsible for colour/dye or colour inconsistencies. Check that the boxes of planks are of the same batch/lot number.
3. Find the exact centre of the floor by marking vertical and horizontal lines across the floor.
4. Measure the squareness of the marked lines, and then start on the first quarter of the marked floor space.
5. Keep a distance of 10mm from the wall and the edge of the flooring products. Press products down firmly so that the products lie flat on the ground.
6. NFD recommends the random installation method and also recommends mixing 4-5 boxes to achieve a more natural appearance. Loose laying and re-shuffling before locking the hybrid together is the best way to obtain this.
7. End joins row to row to be no less than 35cm.
8. No plank should be cut smaller than one-third of its width or one-eighth of its length

Custom Stair Tread:

Please ensure the stairs are clean, dry and free from any debris to ensure proper bonding. The edges of the treads must be square so where necessary the face may need to be packed.

For customer treads made with Hybrids with an inbuilt underlay please remove sections of the underlay approximately 30mm wide and 200mm-300mm vertically apart (width of the plank). This will ensure a proper bond with the product to stair.

Customs stair treads must be fully adhered using a construction grade adhesive to both the tread and the face of the stair making sure that the insert used on the product is fully bonded with the face of the stair. Failure to adhere the insert to the face could result in failure.

Recommended adhesive are Selleys Liquid Nails Extreme Grab and Sika Sikaflex 11 FC (PURFORM).

Silicon or flexible adhesives are not recommended.

Post Installation Check:

To protect the floor from heat and fading due to direct sunlight, use window coverings. Tinting windows may also be necessary.

Ensure the floor surface temperature does not drop below 5°C or exceed 45°C and avoid exposing it to dramatic temperature changes. A surface temperature change of more than 10°C within 2 hours is considered dramatic and can cause issues like joint peaking or gaps.

**NFD may deem necessary to use transition strips where a replacement room has been authorised. This will be on a case by case basis and will supersede any installation recommendation.*

NFD

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