



## Installation Information

### Installation information for Deck Art flooring products

The wooden top layer of Deck Art products is adhered to the highest grade multi-ply birch plywood to produce a dimensionally stable product. That is why our flooring offers the look of solid wood flooring, combined with the installation flexibility of an engineered floor.

### Important information before starting:

**It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you read and understand this information completely prior to starting, since improper installation can void the warranties.**

### Installer/Owner responsibility

- Goods should be brought inside the building and inspected before installation.
- The installation of Deck Art flooring products shall be the last step of any construction or renovation project.
- Warranties do not cover materials damaged during transport and/or with visible defects once they are installed, whereby natural characteristics of wood cause variations in wood grain, figure, character marks, texture or color and are not covered under warranties.

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- Transport damages should be reported on the delivery document directly during signing for delivery, when possible, and when not accepted, the goods should be returned to the transporter.
- Provisions must be made to prevent the product from sliding or falling.
- The installer assumes all responsibility for the final inspection of product quality.
- This inspection of all flooring should be done prior to installation.  
Depending on availability, deliveries may contain non-standard lengths and non-standard packaging size.
- Carefully examine the flooring for quality, finish and color before installing.
- The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause.
- If material is doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, do not install it and contact your supplier immediately.
- The use of stain, filler or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- Even though our products are inspected many times, some grading deficiencies may occur (in up to 5% of the floor area).
- When flooring is ordered, at least 5% must be added to the actual quantity needed for cutting and grading allowance.

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## **Tools & accessories needed**

All installations

Dust mask, broom or vacuum, chalk line & chalk, (electric power) saw, eye protection, hammer, hand saw or jamb saw, moisture meter (wood, concrete or both), Deck Art glue remover, square, tape measure, utility knife, pry bar.

## **Pre-installation and jobsite conditions**

- The installer/owner is responsible for determining if the job site subfloor and job site conditions are structurally and environmentally acceptable for installation. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for floor failure resulting from or connected with subfloor, subsurface, job site damage, jobsite environmental deficiencies or deficiencies after hardwood flooring has been installed. All substrates must be dry, clean, structurally sound and flat.
- Use of appropriate products and methods for correcting subfloor voids should be accepted as a normal industry practice.
- Exterior grading should be complete with surface drainage offering a minimum drop of 150mm in 3000mm to direct flow of water away from the structure. All gutters and downspouts should be in place.
- All outside doors and windows must be in place. All concrete, masonry, plastering and other “wet” work must be thoroughly dry. The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed. The base molding should be installed after the flooring installation is complete. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.
- Deck Art flooring products may be installed below, on or above grade level.

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- The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 15-24°C and humidity of 40-65% 14 days prior installation to allow for proper acclimation. Room humidity should never exceed 40-65%. Keep in mind that if the relative humidity drops below 30% for extended periods, the flooring could shrink and expand causing surface crack, split, bow, crook or delaminating.
- The subfloor must be checked for moisture content by an appropriate testing method. Test results must be recorded.
- To warrant flooring areas larger than 80m<sup>2</sup> and/or containing subfloor heating refer to document: *Deck Art Subfloor Heating and Cooling* as it will require heat sensors as referring to document: *Instructions for Heat Sensors*.

Note: Keep a record of all your readings for later reference and warranty enquiries. We strongly recommend you keep a record of your moisture and humidity readings prior to and after installation. These measurements will be required by the supplier and manufacturer if there are any future problems.

### **Storage and handling**

Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place being sure to provide at least a 100mm air space under bundles which are stored upon flat and stable concrete floors. The flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors creating a controlled interior environment and until cement work, plastering and all other “wet” work is completed and dry. Concrete should be at least 60 days old. Deck Art flooring products must be stored, in their packaging, in the environment in which they are expected to perform for at least 72 hours prior to installation. Provisions must be made to prevent the product from sliding or falling.

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## **Subfloor preparation and recommendations for all installations**

### Concrete subfloors

Remove all transitions and wall-base and undercut all door casings with a hand or power jam saw using a scrap piece of flooring as a height guide. New concrete slabs require a minimum of 60 days drying time before covering with flooring. They must be fully cured. Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth (flat within 5mm in a 3000mm radius or 3mm in 1800mm radius) and free of structural defects. Hand scrape or sand to remove loose, flaky concrete. Grinding high spots in concrete is recommended over using filling compounds. However if a filling/leveling compound is used, it must be of a Portland base compound (min. 2000N/cm<sup>2</sup> (3000 psi)) with a high compressive strength. Concrete must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax, grease, dirt, sealers, and curing compounds. These may be removed chemically or mechanically, but do not use solvent based strippers under any circumstances. Residual solvents can prohibit the satisfactory bonding of flooring adhesives. It is important to ensure a proper bond between the adhesive and the concrete and the planks. Deck Art products may be installed on grade, above grade, as well as below grade where moisture conditions do not exist. To ensure a long lasting bond, make sure that the perimeter of the foundation has adequate drainage and vapor barrier.

### Lightweight concrete

Lightweight concrete that has a dry density of 1500kg or less per m<sup>3</sup> (under 3000 psi) is not suitable for Deck Art products. Many products have been developed as self-leveling toppings or floor underlayment. These include cellular concrete, resin-

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reinforced cement underlayment and gypsum-based materials. Although some of these products may have the necessary qualifications of underlayment for wood flooring installations, others do not. To test for lightweight concrete, scrape a coin or key across the surface of the subfloor. If the surface powders easily or has a dry density of 1500kg or less per m<sup>3</sup> (under 3000 psi), do not install Deck Art flooring products.

### Wood subfloors

Wood subfloors need to be well nailed or secured with screws. Nails and screws need to be counter sunk. The wood subfloor needs to be structurally sound (meaning subfloors without loose boards, vinyl, tiles, or loose OSB board or plywood), flat 5mm in a 3000mm radius and dry. It should not exceed 12% moisture prior to installation. If the subfloor is single layer, less than 15mm thick, add a single cross layer for strength and stability (minimum 10mm thick for a total 25mm thickness). For glue down installations wood subfloors must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax, grease, dirt and urethane, varnish etc. Underlayment grade OSB is also a suitable subfloor. Particleboard is not an acceptable subfloor for glue down installation, but can be used as a subfloor in floating installations.

When installing over existing wood flooring, install at right angles to the existing floor.

### Subfloor moisture check

The recommended wood flooring adhesive may be used for above, on, and below grade applications. All grade level applications are susceptible to moisture and

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should be tested for moisture prior to installation in several locations within the installation area. Acceptable conditions for above, on, and below grade installations are:

- Less than or equal to 75% relative humidity.
- No greater than a reading of 2% on a moisture meter, for concrete subfloors. Moisture meters should only be used as a method of searching out areas that may contain excessive moisture and should not be used to determine concrete readiness.
- Wood Substrates must have a moisture reading of less than 12% when using an appropriate moisture meter.

To correct any subfloor problems concerning moisture, either wait until the subfloor dries to meet specifications or use an appropriate moisture barrier.

#### Subfloors other than wood or concrete

NOTE: Perimeter glued resilient vinyl and rubber tiles are unacceptable underlayments and must be removed. Terrazzo, tile and any other hard surfaces that are dry, structurally sound and flat, as described above, are suitable as a subfloor for installation of Deck Art products. As above, the surface must be sound, tight and free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax, grease and dirt. Terrazzo and ceramic tile must be sanded to assure adhesion. WARNING! Do not sand existing resilient tile, sheet flooring, backing, or felt linings. Check with local, state and federal laws for handling hazardous material before attempting the removal of these floors

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### Subfloor heating and cooling

Use of an in floor temperature sensor as well as a separate thermostat for the individual room is required.

For more detailed information and instructions refer to the document titled *Subfloor Heating and Cooling*.

### **Preparation**

Remove all transitions and wall-base and undercut all door casings with a hand or power jam saw using a scrap piece of flooring as a height guide.

### Racking the floor

Whether you choose to install the floor by the glue down method or floating, start by cutting four to five planks in random lengths, differing by at least 300mm. As you continue working across the floor be sure to maintain a 300mm minimum between end joints on all adjacent rows to ensure a random pattern with no detectable pattern. Never waste material; use the leftover pieces from the fill cuts to start the next row or to complete a row.

NOTE: When installing, be sure to blend the wood from several bundles to ensure a good grain and shading mixture throughout the installation. Allow for a 15mm expansion gap all around the room. Never strike the surface with a hammer or such, as this can damage the finish.

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## **Recommended subfloor surfaces**

### Glue-down

- 18mm, plywood or OSB
- Acoustic concrete minimum 3000 psi
- Acoustic cork underlayment
- Ceramic, terrazzo, slate and marble
- Concrete slabs
- Existing solid wood flooring
- Preferred: 18mm CDX grade plywood or 18mm OSB PS2 rated underlayment, Minimum: 15mm CDX grade plywood
- Vinyl, resilient tile, cork flooring

### Floating

- Concrete slabs
- Acoustic concrete minimum 2000 psi
- 18mm plywood or OSB
- Existing solid wood flooring
- Vinyl, resilient tile, cork flooring

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## **Glue down installation guidelines**

### Additional tools & material needed:

Urethane flooring adhesive (non water based), adhesive recommended trowel, moisture primer for below grade applications, clean white rags, mineral spirits/urethane adhesive remover, adhesive trowel, straight edge.

## **Installation below grade guideline**

NOTE: A concrete slab is considered below grade when any part of the slab is below ground level, for example, walk-out basements are below grade! Treat with an approved moisture retarder compatible with the adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions.

### Step 1 – Beginning of work

Select a starter wall. It is recommended to start on the longer wall in the room, but check for squareness and make adjustments as necessary. Where possible, lay the flooring at 90° angle to the floor joists. Measure out from the wall the width of two planks plus 9.5mm (this leaves a 15 mm expansion space when the last board is installed) and mark at each end of the room and snap your chalk line. Secure a straight edge to the subfloor on the chalk line. The straight edge provides a stationary point to push against so flooring doesn't move during installation. This is a critical part of the installation. Please refer to section 'large surface areas' for more information about installation in large areas.

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## Step 2 – Spreading the adhesive

Use the recommended trowel at a 45° angle to get the correct adhesive spread rate to insure a proper and permanent bond. Improper bonding can cause loose or hollow spots. Spread adhesive from the straight edge out about 750mm. Working in small sections is helpful, as it will allow you to reach across the adhesive to install the flooring without putting any weight on it and will ensure proper transfer of the adhesive to the flooring.

NOTE: Change the trowel every 185 to 275m<sup>2</sup> due to wear down of the notches. This assures you always get the proper adhesive spread rate.

## Step 3 – Installing the starter row

Install the first row of starter planks with the tongue side of the plank facing the straight edge and secure into position. Once the starter row is secure, continue with the installation. Never spread more adhesive than can be covered using the open time recommendation of the adhesive manufacturer. Never lay the flooring planks further than you can comfortably reach. Place tongue into groove and press firmly into adhesive. Put weight on the glued surface for 24 hours after being glued into place using at least a 20kg weight per m<sup>2</sup>. Never slide a flooring plank through adhesive. Test for proper bond by occasionally lifting a board and looking for good adhesive transfer (90%) then replace it into the adhesive. Clean any adhesive off the flooring surface before it cures.

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NOTE: Use caution when using a rubber mallet to butt material together, as it can burnish the finish and cause damage.

#### Step 4 – Job completion

Once the last row is installed, allow the adhesive to dry overnight or per adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Remove the straight edge and install the two rows to the starting wall. The row closest to the wall will need to have the tongue removed and may need to be cut to maintain the 15mm expansion space. Install the proper trim molding at the doorways for transition and along the walls to cover the expansion space. Clean your floor using a vacuum cleaner or a dust mop fitted with a dry cloth and maintain the finished floor referring to the *Care and Maintenance Instructions*.

#### **Floating installation guideline**

##### Additional tools & material needed:

PVAC wood glue, wood or plastic spacers, moisture barrier of 0.15 mm polyethylene for concrete subfloors.

#### Step 1 - Subfloor preparation

As part of your subfloor preparation, remove any existing base, shoe mold, or doorway thresholds. All door casings should be notched out or undercut to allow 15mm room for expansion and to avoid difficult scribe cuts. This is easily done by placing a piece of board on the subfloor as a height guide for your hand saw. Install

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a moisture barrier over the wood subfloor. Use 0.15 mm polyethylene for concrete subfloors. Install the moisture barrier parallel to the direction of the flooring and allow a 75mm overrun at the perimeter. Make sure each run overlaps the previous run by 150mm or more. If using, install resilient underlayment parallel to the moisture membrane, following manufacturer's instructions.

NOTE: Some resilient underlayments contain a built-in moisture barrier, eliminating the need for a separate moisture barrier. Always check that the perm rating of the resilient underlayment is compatible with the substrate you are covering (For concrete 13 or less. For wood greater than or equal to 7 or less than or equal to 50.)

### Step 2 – Beginning of work

Once the moisture barrier and the resilient subfloor underlayment (if used) have been installed over the subfloor, the jobsite is ready for installation of the flooring. Never open the bundles before the start of the installation process. Establish a 15mm expansion space along side and end walls with the use of wood spacers. If the starting wall is out of square, it is recommended the first row of boards be scribed to allow for 15mm of expansion and a straight working line. Please refer to section 'large surface areas' for more information about installation in large areas.

### Step 3 – Installation, side and end gluing

The Deck Art planks must be fully side and end glued using PVAC glue. Apply a glue line on top of the tongue. Fully glue every end joint, also by application on top of the groove (or on top of the tongue). If any excess glue squeezes up to the finished

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surface, wipe off using a paper towel or cloth. Install the first row using the appropriate expansion space with the groove side facing the wall. The subsequent rows are installed, side and end glued. Do not tap on the groove side of the flooring as this will cause damage! Check for tight fit on sides and ends. Stagger 400mm between end joints of adjacent board rows; end joints should not repeat visually across installed floor. Never install without some end joints in the floor.

#### Step 4 - Installing the last row, final touches

Most often the last row does not fit in width. When this occurs, follow this simple procedure: lay a row of unglued boards, tongue toward wall, directly on top of last installed row. Take a short piece of board with the face down and the tongue side against the wall. Draw a line with a pencil along the row moving down the wall. The resulting line gives the proper width for the last row which, when cut, can then be wedged into place using a pry bar. When the installation is complete, make sure that the spacers are removed and the expansion space is covered with an appropriate molding. Always attach the trim to the wall or vertical object and never to the Deck Art boards. Clean your floor using a vacuum cleaner fitted with a brush/felt or a dust mop fitted with a dry cloth and maintain the finished floor by following instructions described in the document: *Care and Maintenance Instructions*.

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## **Large surface areas**

### Expansion joints in building structure

For both glue down and floating floor installation in projects with large surface areas it is always advised to accommodate the expansion joints in the building structure by allowing the same expansion space in the flooring. This space may be covered with a T-molding or filled with a flexible sealant.

### Layout and Expansion space

When the flooring area exceeds 10 meters in width and/or 30 meters in length, additional expansion space must be incorporated into the field, as well as at the perimeter and all vertical obstructions. For floating installations allow 6.5mm expansion for every 3 lineal meters of flooring in either direction, but never less than 15mm. Example: 9 x 9 m room requires 19.5mm expansion at all edges.

### Prevention

In order to protect your floor and keep it in good condition, follow these steps:

Do:

- Maintain indoor relative humidity between 40% and 65%. If this preventive measure is not kept, the flooring can crack, split, discolour, crook, bow and delaminate.
- Use felt leg protector pads under all furniture legs.
- Replace narrow, hard furniture rollers with wide rubber ones.

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- Always clean the floor in accordance with the *Care and Maintenance Instructions*.
- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Use a dolly, rolled over plywood when moving heavy objects.
- Apply (slip resistant) runners or area rugs on high traffic areas.
- Use (slip resistant) door mats, to keep abrasives as dirt, grit and sand off the floor.
- Protect the floor from direct sunlight
- Move area rugs occasionally as they block sunlight and may give the appearance of discolouration under the rug.

Don't:

- Allow water to retain on the floor.
- Walk on the floor with any hard and/or sharp object protruding from the sole.
- Use cleaning products that are abrasive or contain alkaline, ammonia, bleach, soap, citrus.
- Let furniture stand on the floor on small hard legs
- Use a steam mop or any machine as you risk damaging the finish of the Deck Art floor.

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