

## LUXURY VINYL PLANK - EXPRESS LAY

# Installation Instructions (Australian Version)

**Godfrey Hirst Luxury Vinyl Plank (Express Lay) Installation Guidelines should be reviewed by installers prior to commencement of installation. All installations should be in accordance with AS1884:2002.** Should it be intended to direct stick the product, please refer to the Godfrey Hirst Luxury Vinyl Plank (Direct Stick) Installation Guideline available from your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative or the Godfrey Hirst website [www.godfreyhirst.com](http://www.godfreyhirst.com). Should you have any queries in relation to the below recommendations, please contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.

## Pre-Laying Checks

It is the installer's responsibility to verify that the product and accessories supplied is the correct product, colour, pattern and quantity. Prior to installation, each plank should be carefully checked in good natural light for any obvious visual defects. Never install defective product (unless agreed by a Godfrey Hirst Floors representative). If the product is incorrect or has any visual defects or damage, contact the retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative. Generally, Godfrey Hirst will not be responsible for any visible defects after the flooring has been cut and/or installed.

## Site Testing and Conditioning

Concrete sub floors must be tested in accordance with AS1884-2012 for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test and pH. RH levels should not exceed 75% and pH levels should not exceed 10.

Godfrey Hirst LVP's (and any adhesives if being used) must be allowed to condition on site for a minimum period of 24 hours, in a dry, well ventilated area with an air temperature between 18°C and 28°C and a minimum floor temperature of 15°C. The temperature must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of 48 hours after installation completion. The ambient relative humidity of the area where the products are to be installed needs to be assessed given that this can strongly determine the type of adhesive or any other proprietary product required to complete the installation successfully. This may require covering the windows to prevent any fluctuations of temperature during of after the installation to prevent thermally induced changes to the product.

Boxes should be stored no more than 3 high to avoid damage and maximise acclimatisation.

Please note: Godfrey Hirst Express Lay has a fibreglass membrane within its construction for added stability, however, glue free and/or grid stick installations may exhibit some further relaxation after installation necessitating re-trimming of flooring around the perimeter despite pre-laying conditioning. This is not a manufacturing defect but a natural feature of these types of installations.

## Sub Floor Preparation

Sub floor must be level, smooth, dry and free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint or any other materials which could adversely affect the adhesion of the LVP's to the floor.

Concrete floors must be cured and completely dry, with a surface free of trowel marks and surface irregularities and thoroughly checked for the following:

- A. Planeness - When a straightedge 2 metres long is placed at rest at 2 points 2 metres apart, no part of the surface shall be more than 4mm below the straightedge.
- B. Smoothness - When a straightedge 150mm is placed at any position at rest at two points on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 1mm below the straightedge.

Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable (taking into account the traffic loads) approved levelling compound in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All protrusions must be levelled. If water is used to clean the subfloor, a moisture test must be conducted in accordance with AS1884-2012 prior to installation.

For existing timber, plywood and particleboard sub floors, any loose boards should be re-fixed and damaged boards replaced, then if required, sanded to a level, smooth and dust free surface.

Resilient flooring should not be adhered directly to particleboard subfloors as this will adversely affect the bond and a primer or cementitious coat may be required. Resilient sheet and tile finishes are not considered a suitable surface for adhering resilient floor coverings and should be removed. If this cannot be achieved, careful assessment is required as to whether the existing floor is to acceptable standards to adhere the new flooring.

For installations where underfloor heating is used, the surface temperature must not exceed 27°C or have any coverings upon it to fluctuate above this. Refer to AS 1884-2012 4.1.3 for scope of preparing and conditioning the sub floor pre and post installation. Please contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative to confirm suitability and further installation recommendations.

### Adhesives

Use only adhesives recommended by the manufacturer for use with vinyl planks and relevant to specific site conditions. Special consideration should be given to the type of adhesive used in areas subject to extremes in temperature fluctuations or prolonged direct sunlight. Some examples may be as follows; windows/doors with a continuous full sun exposure, heaters/fireplaces, laundries, bathrooms, areas of high water spillages etc. It is highly recommended you contact the relevant adhesive manufacturer to confirm adhesive suitability and application.

### Installation Procedure

To minimise shade variation, mix and install product from several different packs alternately.

Before applying any adhesive, loosely lay a small quantity of product, view from a distance that allows you to clearly see the overall effect. If there is any doubt cease installation/adhesion immediately and contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.

### Installation Instructions

1. Prepare the subfloor in accordance with Australia Standard 1884-2012 and as set out in these instructions.
  2. Plan the direction of the area to be installed to maximise the visual appearance once installed. The direction of the tile/plank grain should be confirmed and the installation should be balanced from the centre of the area to minimise waste.
  3. When installing planks the starting point should be marked out at a perpendicular axes adjacent to the longest straight wall. Installations containing connecting areas and link-ups may require a number of perpendicular axes.
  4. Application rates and methods for adhesives must be determined by the installer as this will be subject to subfloor conditions. For further information regarding application rates, recommendations and warranties, please contact your adhesive manufacturer.
  5. Select your installation method:
    - Glue Free - For general areas that do not have high traffic Express Lay products can be installed without using adhesive or tape provided the substrate conforms with ASI 884-2012. To assist in securing the first few rows to achieve best results, use a quality double sided tape to ensure the planks do not creep or move. If the floor area has any wall greater than 4 metres a "grid stick" installation is recommended.
    - Grid Stick - For areas that have a wall greater than 4 metres or are high trafficable areas - Apply to the substrate a 150 mm band of pressure sensitive adhesive around the base perimeter of the walls as well as at 2 metre intervals of parallel to each perimeter wall forming a grid. Alternatively for residential applications a high quality double sided vinyl tape can be used to achieve a similar grid system.
    - Direct Stick - For areas with very high traffic (wheeled/rolling, high foot fall entrances/corridors) use a full spread pressure sensitive adhesive. Refer to adhesive manufacturer to ensure glue type and applicator used allows for "peel up" of damaged planks/tiles. After installation, the section should be rolled in both directions using at least a 45kg roller or 3-section roller of equivalent weight to ensure a full adhesive transfer rate of no less than 95%. For smaller areas, use a hand roller to achieve the same transfer rate.
- NOTE: In areas that may receive exposure to increased surface water or severe temperature fluctuations, it is recommended to use a full spread epoxy. Contact the adhesive manufacture for recommendations.
6. The minimum distance between the ends of planks in adjacent rows should be no less than 150mm.
  7. Once fully installed all exposed edges should be protected by means of a diminishing strip or other suitable mouldings.
  8. Traffic or wet cleaning should not be allowed on the installation for 24 hours to allow the adhesive to reach its full bond strength.

### Post Installation

If construction works are still underway, the floor should be protected from site debris, dirt, soil, traffic etc by use of a protective surface (eg sheet plastic, hard boards etc). If using adhesive, it is recommended that plywood be placed over the floor during the removal or replacement of furniture or any heavy objects within 48 hours of the installation.

Please be careful to ensure no condensation occurs and any adhesive tape or protective material does not affect the aesthetics of the finished installation. Use window coverings to protect the floor from heat and fading under direct sunlight. Dramatic temperature fluctuation of the flooring could cause joins to lip or gaps to occur.

### Warnings:

Asbestos - Prior to any take-up or removal of floorcoverings, adhesives or underlay, you should be certain these do not contain asbestos. If it is known or suspected the previous flooring, adhesive or underlay contains asbestos, you should avoid creating dust and the previous flooring and/or components should only be removed by an appropriately licenced asbestos removal contractor.

These guidelines are intended to assist in achieving an optimum installation. Any variation to the recommendations above by installers may affect any warranties. For further information, please contact your local Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.