SUPACORE
WATERPROOF HYBRID FLOORING
BY HURFORD'S

Installation Instructions - SUPACORE

PREPARATION

SUPACORE installation instructions are to be read and understood by installers prior to installation. They provide details concerning the product and correct installation practices that affect both the performance and appearance of the floor. Not complying to these instructions may affect SUPACORE warranties. Should there be any queries in relation to the installation instructions, please contact your retailer or Hurford's representative.
SUPACORE hybrid floors are designed to be installed as floating floors. This is where the planks are joined to each other, never to the subfloor, and as such 'float' on the subfloor. Areas of flooring or rafts are then joined with trims that permit movement due to changes in temperature. It is important that unrestricted free movement (expansion and contraction) is maintained around the full perimeter of the raft.

SUPACORE REQUIREMENTS

At the time of installation, SUPACORE needs to be within the temperature range of 18°C to 28°C. The internal temperature is also to be within this range during installation and for 48 hours after installation. If the flooring is at a lower or higher temperature, it needs to be brought within this temperature range prior to installation. This can be achieved by placing the boxes of flooring, three high and 200mm apart in an 18°C to 28°C environment for at least 12 hours. An ambient relative humidity in the installation area between 30-60% would also be expected to prevent condensation from forming under the installed flooring. Heavy items that exceed 200kg or if the loading is greater than 30kg/cm2 are not suitable to be placed on this flooring. This may include large bookcases, full-sized billiard tables, and some mobility scooters. The flooring is also to be installed around fixed cabinets and island benches.

CHECKS DURING INSTALLATION

It is the installer's responsibility to verify that the product and accessories supplied are the correct product, colour, pattern and that there is sufficient quantity. During installation, each plank should be checked under good light for any obvious visual damage or inconsistencies in appearance. Never install planks that may detrimentally affect floor performance or the expected appearance of the floor. Should the product be incorrect, damaged or not of the expected appearance, it is important that you contact the retailer. Hurford's will not be responsible for any uplift or reinstallation when such problems would have been apparent at installation.

SUBFLOOR TYPES AND REQUIREMENTS

Typical subfloors that may be installed over include concrete, ceramic tiles, plywood, particleboard, solid timber, vinyl and cork. It is necessary that the subfloor has been soundly fixed and thereby provides a solid hard surface that is not subject to excessive deflection, noise or movement. Some subfloor remediation may be needed prior to installing SUPACORE.
SUPACORE hybrid flooring can be installed over hydronic underfloor radiant heating but not radiant electric heating systems that permit rapid temperature change. In new construction, operate the subfloor heating system at maximum capacity for a minimum of 7 days to force any residual moisture from the concrete. Shut down the floor heating at least 48 hours prior to floor installation and ensure the room temperature is above 15°C while installing. The subfloor temperature is not to exceed 27°C and when increasing or decreasing the temperature, do so at no more than 2°C per day.

SUBFLOOR ASSESSMENT FOR MOISTURE AND FLATNESS

Regarding subfloors, the resilient flooring standard AS/NZ1884:2021 states that subfloors need to be prepared prior to floor installation. This includes assessing the moisture in the subfloor and how flat the subfloor is. Although SUPERCORE does not absorb water, it cannot be installed over a 'wet' subfloor as this is indicative of building problems that could be further exacerbated with floor installation. The potential for a wet subfloor usually relates to on-ground concrete slabs and floors on joists over natural ground where the subfloor space is enclosed. For concrete subfloors, the standard indicates that slabs are to be tested using the in-slab relative humidity (RH) method and that in-slab relative humidity levels up to 80% are acceptable to install over. Above this level and below 85% (concrete impedance meter readings of about 4%) a moisture vapour retarding barrier would be expected to mitigate possible slab moisture. In-slab RH with ongoing readings above 90% (concrete impedance meter readings of about 5%) are not suitable for installation. It should also be considered that old slabs are not necessarily dry slabs. Note that Hurford's requires a 200 µm 'builder's plastic' to be installed over all slab subfloors, in part to guard against possible slab moisture and also to ensure that the planks slip freely and do not catch on the slab surface. The plastic is lapped 200mm and joints are taped with water-resistant plastic tape. With floors on joists over an enclosed subfloor space, the estimated moisture content by resistance moisture meter, of solid timber members in the subfloor space, should not be above 14%. Note that meter readings in plywood and particleboard are not accurate.
All subfloors must be sufficiently flat and smooth, free from surface irregularities, and where the surface does not impede the natural movement of the floor when temperatures change. Subfloor flatness is assessed by placing a 1.8m to 2m straight edge anywhere on the subfloor and for there to be no gap greater than 3mm anywhere beneath it. Depressions greater than this tolerance must be filled using a suitable leveling compound for the subfloor type in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. With slabs, a combination of grinding and leveling compounds can be used. On plywood, particleboard and solid timber subfloors, sanding and leveling compounds may be used. If particleboard and solid timber subfloors are not sanded to a smooth finish, then 200 µm 'builder's plastic' is also to be installed on these subfloors to ensure that the planks slip freely and do not catch on the subfloor. The plastic is to be lapped 200mm and joints taped with plastic tape. With ceramic tile subfloors, grout lines are to be filled with a suitable leveling compound. The tile surface may also need to be ground to remove height inconsistencies. Carpet, carpet underlay and/or existing floating floors are not suitable subfloors.

WET AREAS

Although SUPACORE hybrid planks are waterproof, this does not necessarily prevent water from penetrating through joints and beneath the planks. If intended to be used in designated wet areas such as bathrooms and laundries some states may have specific compliance requirements that need to be met or may preclude use of this flooring. Check with your state's building regulator. Note also that as the planks are a rigid product and the flooring needs to follow the contour of the subfloor. When considering floor wastes, use in some wet areas may not be appropriate. At the doorway or other adjoining areas, separate wet area floors from other floor areas with a T-mould or similar. As these floors are to be separated from other floor areas, and are generally quite small, silicone sealant at the junction of the wall and floor is permitted.

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Installation Instructions Continued - SUPACORE

PERIMETER EXPANSION GAPS

A standard perimeter expansion gap of not less than 10mm must be maintained against all fixed vertical surfaces (e.g. walls, cabinets, sliding doors, island benches, plumbing fixtures etc.). SUPACORE hybrid floors are extremely stable and can be installed in individual rooms up to 15m long and 10m wide. In large, complex, or multi-room installations, control joints at doorways are to be provided. Trims or scotia are used to cover gaps included to cater for floor movement. The use of silicone or caulking compound at the floor perimeter, which can restrain plank movement is not recommended (except wet area floors separated from other floor areas).

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- Saw/Guillotine
- Rubber Mallet
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Tape Measure

INSTALLATION

As a floating floor, the floor is not to be adhered, nailed or pinned in any way to the subfloor or structure. Additional foam or cork underlays are not to be used.
1. Prepare the subfloor in accordance with instructions provided above. Asbestos Warning - 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, the previous flooring and/ or components should only be removed by an appropriately licenced asbestos removal contractor, and avoid activities that create dust.
2. Consider the installation direction to achieve the desired visual appearance. Traditional timber floors usually run lengthwise down hallways and toward main light sources.
3. Measure the room and estimate the number of rows required. If the last row is not at least 50mm wide, the first row should be cut so that the first and last rows are similar in width. If a hallway enters an open plan area, the width of the boards in the hallway and open area will need to be jointly considered to ensure minimum widths are obtained.
4. To minimise shade variation, mix and install product from several different boxes alternately. After laying a small quantity of product, view from a distance that allows you to clearly see the overall effect. If there is any doubt concerning the appearance being acceptability, cease installation immediately and contact your retailer.
5. From the left corner of the room put the first plank in place using spacer blocks against the walls to maintain the minimum 10mm expansion gap so both the end and side plank grooves are facing outwards. Planks are to be installed from left to right.
6. Install the second plank in the first row by laying the short-end tongue onto the previously installed plank short-end groove. Lock the planks together using a soft, white No. 2 rubber mallet to vertically engage the lock. A couple of small taps rather than one sharp strike are recommended to avoid damaging the locking system. Care must be taken to properly line up the end join and NEVER force the join while out of alignment, otherwise this could result in permanent damage to the end groove.
7. Continue in this manner for the rest of the first row. The last plank in the row should be cut to length while maintaining the appropriate expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or fixed vertical surfaces. Cut a plank that is at least 150mm shorter than the first plank to start the second row or use the off cut from the previous row, keeping in mind the length requirements above. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row at a low angle to the installed plank. Then firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure toward the installed plank. The planks should fit snugly together and lay flat. Maintain the appropriate expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or fixed vertical surfaces.
8. To install the remaining planks in the second row, first align the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row at an angle. Slide the plank to the left until it meets the previously installed plank. Firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure towards the installed piece. The planks should fit snugly together and lay flat. Engage the short edge join as indicated above.
9. Work across the length of the room installing planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these first two rows straight and square, as they are the "foundation" for the rest of the installation. Check often for squareness and straightness while installing the floor, as failure to do so can result in gapping.
10. Continue installing, being certain to maintain a random pattern repeat, assisted by offsetting end joins by at least 150mm. Maintain the minimum 10mm expansion gap against all fixed vertical surfaces.
11. Check to be certain that each plank is fully engaged during fitting. If slight gapping is noticed or the planks will not lay flat, simply disengage the long/top side join and then carefully slide the short/end join apart. Do not pull up on this join as it will damage the locking mechanism! Then simply reinstall the plank.
12. The last row (and possibly the first row) plank width should be no less than 50mm wide down the length. Remember to allow for the appropriate expansion gap to the wall.
13. With pipes, measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20mm larger (10mm clearance around the pipe).
14. Install wall mouldings (skirting and scotia) and door transition mouldings last. Be sure that all mouldings are fastened directly to the wall. Do not place any fasteners through the floated floor nor adhere onto it. Care must be taken when fitting wall mouldings so that they do not press down on the floor as this can restrict the floor's ability to expand and contract and may lead to product failure.
NOTE: If necessary, to disassemble your SUPACORE hybrid flooring, separate the whole row by lifting it up carefully at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If planks do not separate easy, you can slightly lift up the planks (5°) when sliding them apart.

POST INSTALLATION

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