Vinyl Sheet Floors

Installation Instructions

Australia

For Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Vinyl Sheet Flooring – Applications (Australia).

General Information and Pre-laying Checks

These Godfrey Hirst Vinyl Sheet Installation Instructions should be reviewed by installers prior to commencement of installation. Should you have any queries in relation to the recommendations below, please contact your retailer or local Godfrey Hirst Representative. Godfrey Hirst vinyl sheet floors have been tested and are recommended for use with adhesives as listed in the Godfrey Hirst Adhesive Recommendations. Godfrey Hirst cannot guarantee the performance of products installed with any other adhesive systems.

Godfrey Hirst recommends installation be carried out by qualified flooring installers.

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

These instructions are provided as a general guide for the installation of Godfrey Hirst vinyl sheet flooring products. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, site conditions, subfloor preparation, and installation practices are beyond the control of the manufacturer.

The installer is responsible for assessing site conditions and ensuring compliance with all relevant standards, product specifications, and adhesive manufacturer requirements prior to installation. Godfrey Hirst accepts no liability for defects arising from:

- Inadequate subfloor preparation.
- Failure to comply with AS 1884:2021 or NCC requirements.
- Incorrect adhesive selection or application.
- Improper installation techniques.
- Environmental or site conditions outside recommended parameters.

Commencement of installation constitutes acceptance of all materials and site conditions.

Standards and Compliance

It is the responsibility of the retailer and installer to remain familiar with the governing regulatory and certification requirements where the product is to be installed and to ensure that the product is fit for the intended purpose.

All installations must be in accordance with AS 1884:2021 and must comply with National Construction Code (NCC) and project specifications.

Where inconsistencies occur between this document, AS 1884:2021, NCC or project documentation, the most stringent requirement shall apply.

If there is any ambiguity, clarification must be sought prior to installation.

Site Conditions

Areas must be enclosed, weatherproof, and free of other trades.

The product must be acclimatised within the installation area for at least 24hrs prior to installation.

Maintain the temperature between 15°C and 28°C during the acclimatisation period, installation, and for 48hrs after installation.

The installation environment must be maintained like in-service conditions during installation. Where HVAC systems are installed, these must be operational.

Relative humidity should be maintained between 30% and 65%.

Commencement of installation constitutes acceptance of site conditions, subfloor suitability, and environmental conditions by the installer.

Material Handling and Conditioning

Store rolls in a safe, dry area and do not stack rolls on top of each other. Homogeneous sheet rolls are to be stored upright and secured to prevent movement or injury.

Vinyl sheet products are not designed to be stored and stationary for long periods of time. If product is stored for over 3 months it should be rotated or flipped to prevent flattening or sagging from occurring. Visibly inspect product that has been stored for long periods of time prior to installation, checking for damage.

Use product within the same space from the same batch numbers only and ensure rolls are installed sequentially to avoid shade variation.

Subfloor Requirements

Subfloors must be structurally sound, smooth, clean, dry and level.

All contaminants including oil, grease, paint, curing compounds and adhesives must be removed.

Subfloor imperfections will telegraph through the finished surface.

An effective moisture barrier must be provided where subfloor moisture exceeds 80% RH when tested to AS1884:2021 or where protection from potential subfloor moisture is required.

Failure to adequately prepare the subfloor will result in defects that may include telegraphing, debonding or premature wear, and is the responsibility of the installer.

Moisture and pH Testing

Concrete substrates must be tested in accordance with AS 1884:2021.

Relative humidity must not exceed 80% RH when tested in accordance with AS 1884:2021.

Where relative humidity testing cannot be performed, ensure care is taken using secondary testing methods as they are less reliable in certain circumstances, particularly where ambient conditions are not well controlled or in existing buildings.

pH surface testing must also be conducted in accordance with AS 1884:2021 and must not exceed pH 10.

Where these limits are exceeded, installation must not proceed until an appropriate Australian Standard compliant moisture mitigation system has been installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Floor Preparation

Concrete subfloors must be completely cured and dry with a surface free of trowel marks or other surface irregularities.

Mechanically prepare the substrate (concrete) by mechanical grinding or shot blasting. Existing preparation materials such as cementitious screeds, ramping or patching compounds must be inspected and accepted as part of the installers' scope prior to proceeding with the installation.

For timber subfloors, an appropriate installation of hardboard or leveler must be used. The timber subfloor structure must be sound and not subject to movement or vibration that could impact the installation.

Fill cracks, joints and irregularities using suitable flooring preparation compounds that have been designed for the installation system following all instructions from the manufacturer including priming or mechanical grinding /blasting / sanding as required.

Protrusions must be levelled and any expansion or movement joints in concrete slabs properly treated to accommodate anticipated movement. Where appropriate, a suitable expansion joint or cover trim should be used.

Gypsum-based products, site-mixed sand/cement screeds, and general-purpose concretes are not suitable as final floor preparation layers unless specifically approved for vinyl flooring applications.

The application of a suitable levelling compound will assist in achieving a smooth, even finish for concrete substrates that is appropriately porous to allow adhesives to cure correctly while minimizing the telegraphing of subfloor imperfections.

Always ensure subfloor tolerances comply with AS 1884:2021 requirements prior to proceeding.

Installation Layout

Check roll direction requirements on product spec sheets or point of sale information before loading or starting the project. The requirement to install adjacent sheets reversed or directionally will vary by product.

Plan layout to minimise seams and avoid high traffic areas. Final sheet layout, seam placement and visual alignment must be approved by the responsible party prior to installation.

Avoid "T" joints and seams over subfloor joints or cracks wherever possible.

For homogeneous products, reverse alternate sheets unless design dictates otherwise.

For directional designs, install sheets in the same direction and pattern match accordingly.

Inspect rolls and patterning layout prior to fixing to be able to shift and align for the best visual results. This is specifically necessary for many heterogenous products with distinct patterning or visuals.

Adhesive Application

Use an appropriate and approved full-spread adhesive system that has been listed on the Godfrey Hirst Adhesive Recommendations List.

Use the appropriate adhesive system for where the product is intended to be used. If the product is being used in areas of high thermal fluctuation or in wet areas with significant traffic load or regular moisture application, the use of a specialty adhesive may be required such as a two-part epoxy system or high temperature adhesive.

Apply using recommended trowel notch size at the recommended spread rate.

Allow correct open-time before placing flooring into adhesive in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

Apply adhesive evenly across the entire area including edges. 100% coverage is required.

Only adhesives recommended by the adhesive manufacturer for vinyl sheet flooring and fit for the intended purpose shall be used.

Installation Procedure

Dry lay cut sheets to allow them to relax prior to bonding.

Back-roll material where required to relieve tension.

Install into wet adhesive and avoid entrapped air. Ensure full adhesive transfer to the backing of the material is achieved.

Roll flooring using minimum 45–68 kg roller in both directions.

Seam Preparation

Remove factory edges where required.

Form seams using double cut or recess scribing.

Ensure tight joins with maximum 0.5 mm gap and with no visible substrate or adhesive showing.

Ensure seams are clean and free of adhesive prior to welding.

Welding Requirements

Heat welding is required for commercial installations requiring hygienic or watertight performance.

Do not weld until adhesive has fully cured (minimum 24 hours).

Chemical (cold) welding may be used only where permitted by the product specification and application requirements.

Heat Welding Procedure

Grooving depth must be adjusted based on product construction:

- Homogeneous – groove to approximately 2/3 of total thickness.
- Heterogeneous / acoustic – groove within wear layer only and must not expose backing layers.

Clean groove thoroughly before welding.

Weld using hot-air gun typically set between 380°C and 450°C. It is recommended that settings are tested on a scrap piece or offcut of the material being installed and the settings are adjusted to achieve the correct bond while not burning or scorching the surface of the product.

Trim weld rod in two stages: initial trim while warm and final trim when fully cooled.

Weld quality must be verified through consistent bead formation and bond integrity. Inadequate welds must be removed and replaced.

Coving and Detailing

Cove flooring to walls where specified (typically 100-300 mm). For coving heights exceeding 300 mm, a wall vinyl installation system shall be used in accordance with applicable fire and performance requirements.

Use cove former (fillet) for smooth transitions and to reinforce the base of the cove.

Internal and external corners must be wrapped and welded at a 45 degree angle, as per AS 1884:2021.

Seams must not be placed within 300 mm of floor drains. Use only recommended push or screw in type floor wastes designed for vinyl sheet installations which allow the vinyl to be folded into the drain.

Seal perimeters and penetrations in wet areas ensuring that the compliant sealing and finishing measures are used to avoid moisture ingress, especially if constant exposure to moisture or significant levels of wet cleaning, scrubbing or mopping are anticipated.

Note: this includes applying sealer to areas where furniture or fixtures are mechanically anchored through the flooring to the subfloor.

Special Applications

Wet areas must include fully welded seams and sealed perimeters. It is advised that prior to installation in wet areas, the area is tanked with an appropriate waterproofing membrane to prevent leaks in the case of installation failures or damage to the product or weld.

There is no guarantee of watertightness for the product itself but rather it is the installation of the product that must be done expertly and correctly in order to perform as expected.

Slip-resistant flooring (required in wet areas) must follow directional installation instructions and should not have additional sealers or compounds applied to the slip resistant surface.

Acoustic-backed products require controlled installation practice. Avoid excessive rolling pressure. Ensure full but even adhesive transfer. Grooving must not penetrate backing layer.

Underfloor Heating

Godfrey Hirst vinyl sheet is suitable for installation over underfloor heating only in certain circumstances.

- Heating units must be turned off 48 hours prior to installation.
- Heating units must remain off for 48 hours after installation.
- Heating must be turned on gradually until in-service temperature is reached. Temperature must not be increased by more than 2°C per day.
- Maximum operating temperature must not exceed 28°C.

Post Installation

Restrict traffic for minimum 24 hours while adhesive is curing.

Avoid heavy loads and rolling traffic for 48–72 hours.

Do not wet clean for at least 48 hours or until welding has been completed.

Protection

Protect installed flooring during construction using breathable coverings such as rigid protection cardboard, ply or poly-board.

Do not use plastic sheeting or tape directly on flooring.

Prevent moisture entrapment under protection materials.

Safety

Assume existing flooring or adhesives may contain asbestos. Removal of existing materials containing asbestos or other chemicals of concern must be conducted by licensed professionals.

Comply with all regulatory and site specific workplace health and safety requirements. Ensure that safe working methods are used specifically concerning but not limited to bulky and heavy material handling, point loading of stored materials, storage and proper usage of adhesives and chemicals, dust and fine particle safety and prevention, sharp cutting and installation equipment, and hot or high temperature work safety methods. Godfrey Hirst recommends the use of qualified and trained flooring installers for the best installation processes and final installed results.