

# Alpine Installation Guidelines



*Stone-Composite Flooring Solution*

0800 289 845



# ALPINE

## STONE COMPOSITE

Water-resistant. Durable. Quality

## Alpine Installation Guidelines

For a quality floating floor.

### BEFORE YOU START:

The installer has a responsibility to properly inspect the following conditions before installing. If your flooring has issues with any of the following please advise your customer and the retailer you purchased from immediately. Failure to do so before installing may affect the warranty.

- ▲ *Quality* – ensure that the quality of the material is as you expected.
- ▲ *Quantity* – ensure that you have ordered and received the required amount of flooring to complete your job.
- ▲ *Colour & Finish* – ensure that the material has the correct colour, finish, texture and gloss level you were expecting.

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

The floor you are about to install is a floating floor and therefore not attached to the substrate so it needs to be able to move as the building/room moves with climate changes, therefore its important (especially in areas of Intense sunlight) that you **plan for adequate expansion joints** around the perimeter of the room to allow for potential movement.

- ▲ The preferred option is to leave off skirting boards/take off to allow ideally a 10mm expansion joint but not less than 6mm without any spacers or debris left in the gap between the wall and edge of the Alpine or boards.
- ▲ If you cannot remove skirting boards, undercut the boards with a multi-tool or similar to enable the Alpine to be installed with a minimum gap of 6mm (10mm is preferred) under the skirting boards.
- ▲ Please ensure all areas on the extremities have functioning expansion joints.
- ▲ By ranch sliders, doors and all walls, please take extra care in areas that receive sustained direct sunlight levels

(like ranch sliders and windows) as these areas are in an environment where more movement can occur. In these areas we recommend a 12mm expansion joint.

- ▲ Please ensure Kitchen units are not installed on top of Alpine flooring as this will lock the floating floor into place meaning that if there is movement in the building and/or expansion due to significant temperature changes, then the floor cannot move (expand).
- ▲ Ensure waterfall ends have an adequate expansion joint and filled with a compressible silicon of ideally 10mm.
- ▲ Please also consider the potential impact on a floating floor of unusually heavy furniture and consider increasing the size of expansion and transitional joints to accommodate the locking of the floor in this area.
- ▲ Underfloor heating needs to have a minimum of 12mm separation from the floor.
- ▲ When installing, do not install in the same way as a wood-based laminate, as over-hammering the joints will cause the boards to break and come loose over time!

### TOOLS AND MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ▲ Tape Measure
- ▲ String line
- ▲ Triangle or Ruler
- ▲ Utility Knife
- ▲ Pencil
- ▲ Spacers, 8 & 10mm
- ▲ Gloves
- ▲ Rubber Mallet



**tile**  
**warehouse**  
*for design inspiration*

## PRIOR TO LAYING:

- ▲ Before commencing laying, take time to plan the installation from where it will be seen from the most.
- ▲ Place full planks in the areas of greatest traffic flow, and cuts in the least seen areas.
- ▲ Where possible, install planks parallel to the direction of light.
- ▲ Consider the placement of expansion joints, should the room exceed 20m in any direction. (See below under 'Expansion Joints').
- ▲ Clear your room of furniture, appliances, skirting/ mouldings and baseboard/skirting board.
- ▲ Using string lines, square up a corner along the length and width of your room as a starting point.
- ▲ Measure the area you plan to cover, and adjust your starting point or cut the first plank so you don't end up requiring lengths less than 30cm or planks less than 5cm wide.
- ▲ Boxes should be kept flat and not stored on their sides.
- ▲ ALPINE is meant to be installed using a floating method only – adhesive is not to be used.
- ▲ If possible, carefully remove all skirting's prior to laying floor.
- ▲ Door trim should be undercut so your floor can expand and contract, freely (a key consideration when installing any type of floating flooring).

## HANDLING:

- ▲ Be gentle during installation: ALPINE is a stone particle (fused stone) composite and is more rigid and dense than a wood-based laminate so it cannot be hammered and handled in the same way without damaging the tongues.
- ▲ Please ensure that the boxes are treated with care and the lock mechanisms on the ends and sides are not damaged prior to installation as they can be weakened by impact or mishandling which can manifest in broken joints after installation.
- ▲ Please ensure planks are stored flat not on their sides.
- ▲ Please do not store at extreme temperatures (below 15°C or over 60°C), otherwise please acclimatise the Alpine as explained further on in this guideline.

## CENTRAL/TRANSITIONAL EXPANSION JOINTS:

ALPINE can be installed in runs of any direction of 20m before a transition joint is required. Should there be a run greater than 20m in any one direction, a 6.4mm transition piece should be installed as close to the middle of the project as an expansion joint in addition to the expansion gap around the perimeter of the project. Expansion joints should always be installed at all perimeters, against any vertical abutment, and against any change in flooring.

- ▲ Expansion joints must always be in a straight line – not stepped or staggered.

- ▲ If the flooring is installed in areas with sustained direct sunlight, then always ensure to leave a 12mm expansion gap between walls and fixtures, such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc.

## ACCLIMATISATION:

In almost all cases, there is no need to acclimatise your ALPINE flooring. If, however, boxes prior to installing have been stored in extreme temperatures (under 15°C or over 60°C) within 12 hours of laying, acclimatisation is required back to normal room temperature (20-25°C).

Maintain normal room temperature whilst laying Alpine planks and after installation, avoid extreme temperatures in the room.

NB: Kerosene heaters should be avoided.

## SUBFLOOR:

- ▲ Make sure the installation area is flat and free of any form of debris, flat to within 4.8 mm in 3m.
- ▲ The sub-floor surface must be smooth, dry, clean and solid. If floor levelling compounds are used, they should be allowed to completely dry before installing the ALPINE floor.
- ▲ If you are installing subfloor heating, it should be done at this stage as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

NB: Concrete slab sub-floors must be fully-cured 60-90 days prior to laying Alpine and be smooth, clean and free of all foreign material such as dust, grease, wax, oils, old adhesive residue and solvents. On wooden subfloors, nail or screw every 15cm along joists to avoid squeaking.

## DO NOT INSTALL:

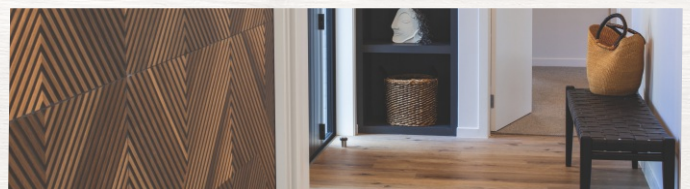
- ▲ Over carpet, cushion-backed flooring products, a floating floor of any type.
- ▲ Over timber flooring if that timber has been laid on a concrete base.

## PERIMETER EXPANSION JOINTS:

Be sure to leave an expansion gap around all perimeters of the floor between Alpine flooring and wall junction, ideally 10mm but no less than 6mm. This is important so that your floor can expand and contract, freely. Please Vacuum out the Gap ensuring there is no debris reducing the joints effectiveness.

In doorways or where Alpine will meet other flooring surfaces, use a product such as a 'T' moulding to cover the exposed edge. Be careful not to pinch the planks and leave a small gap between planks and other flooring.

We recommend the use of 'spacers' to assist in maintaining expansion gaps.



## UNDERSTANDING THE "CLICK" MECHANISM:

The long side profile is primarily a positioning device, whereas the short side is a mechanical device.

- ▲ The long sides should be joined by inserting the 'male' (short) edge into the 'female' (longer edge) at a 15–20 degree angle and then lowering the board to the floor.
- ▲ The short edges are then brought together by sliding the board along the long edge until the short edges overlap. Then the short edges are gently tapped into place until they click into position.

NB: Do not angle the short ends into each other as this may break the locking mechanism. **Lightly tap** once joints have been hand-pressed together.

## LAYING THE FIRST ROW:

It is advised to open 5 – 10 cartons and mix and install product from several different cartons to achieve desirable plank variation. Place a 8mm spacer against the wall and lay your first plank.

Installation should begin with a corner and proceed from the wall with the 'female' tongue facing away from the wall.

- ▲ When laying the first row in a straight line, interlock the short ends by placing short end of second plank over the short end of the preceding plank, making sure it is square to the preceding plank. Gently tap this down until you feel the locking mechanism "bite" (if you try to pull it apart you will feel it has locked up).

Hot tip – lay first two rows at the same time. This keeps the joins of the first row totally square, and cast an eagle-eye over it to make sure it is in. There should be no visible gap between planks. If seams do not appear tight between short ends, unclick the planks gently (see instructions below) and try again.

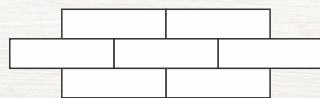
## CUTTING:

- ▲ Measure the distance between the last plank and wall junction, mark the plank and cut by scoring the face of the plank with utility knife using a square as a guide. Snap on the scored edge.
- ▲ Turn the plank over and score through the attached underlay to assist in separation.
- ▲ If you need to cut around a contoured edge (e.g. around plumbing), or around a doorway (L-shaped cut), use a jig saw and turn decorative face down to reduce damage to the upper face panel.

NB: If cutting using a hand saw, chop saw or guillotine cutter, cut it with the decorative face turned up.

## LAYING SUBSEQUENT ROWS:

- ▲ When installing our stone composite, stagger the rows so that the short edge seams are not in a straight uniform line. Although they don't need to be brick bond pattern, just offset.



- ▲ Starting the Second row, the first plank should be a min length of 30cm. Put a spacer against the wall, then lay down the first piece of the second row. Insert the long end of the plank at a 15-20 degree angle into the previous row and slowly return it flat to the floor, checking carefully that there is no gap between planks. Align the short ends so the short end of the new plank sits over the locking mechanism of the previous plank, then lightly tap it into place with a rubber mallet until the board clicks.
- ▲ Start the third row with the last plank remaining from the previous row.

## FINISHING UP - LAST ROW:

The minimum width of the last plank should be *not less than* 50mm wide. Should the last row require you to cut length ways of the plank, use a measuring tool/ruler and utility knife to cut straight down the long end of the plank, taking into account the width of the spacer required up against the wall.

- ▲ Always undercut wood doorjamb. If you have metal door jamb, leave a gap for expansion and fill with compressible siliconised caulk.
- ▲ Spacers should be removed from the perimeter of the installation before reinstalling the skirting's or wall covering.
- ▲ Ensure the gap between the last plank and the wall is kept free from debris and sits off the floor.
- ▲ Perimeters of the installation abutting tubs, toilet bowls, etc. should be filled with compressible siliconised caulk.

## CARING FOR YOUR FLOORS:

- ▲ Do not install kitchens and extremely heavy furniture on top of Alpine flooring.
- ▲ When moving furniture or appliances, lift off the floor to move to avoid scratching surfaces.
- ▲ Do not unclip and re-clip planks on a regular basis as this could eventually affect the integrity of the product.
- ▲ Do not use floor polish or floor cleaning wax, oil soaps, etc. These products can damage and/or leave a film on the flooring.
- ▲ Do not buff, wax or use cleaning products that contain surfactants.
- ▲ Never steam clean or use a steam mop on the floor.
- ▲ Furniture with ball-type castors can damage the floor.
- ▲ Protective mats are recommended under office chairs.
- ▲ Do not use dyed or rubber backed protective mats as they can leach colour.
- ▲ We recommend using non-staining, large surface floor protectors under furniture and appliances.