



# ALPINE

plus

## QUALITY FLOORING

# Installation Guidelines

*Congratulations on choosing ALPINE PLUS for your flooring.*

Please read all instructions before you begin as improper installation will void warranty. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and look great for years.

**Please ensure the floor is smooth to within 3mm over 3m as per NZS-AS1884:2013 code standards.**

### BEFORE YOU START:

- ▲ Plan for adequate expansion joints around the perimeter of the room – a min of 6mm but no less than 1mm per running metre. ie: a 14m running floor requires 14mm expansion minimum, ie: 7mm each end.
- ▲ It is recommended that GIB or the equivalent, be installed 10mm off the clean floor in accordance with Council requirements.
- ▲ If cabinetry or skirting is pre-installed, an Alpine trim should be used to mask the expansion gap. If trim cannot be used, a compressible silicone can be used with a min expansion gap of the greater of either, 10mm or 2mm per running metre.
- ▲ Ensure the room temperature does not exceed the allowable temperature range of between -5 to 70 degrees Celsius.

### TOOLS AND MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ▲ Tape Measure
- ▲ String line
- ▲ Triangle or Ruler
- ▲ Utility Knife
- ▲ Pencil
- ▲ Spacers – eg: 8 to 10mm
- ▲ Gloves
- ▲ Rubber Mallet
- ▲ Compressible silicon; eg: Maxisil Cure
- ▲ *Alpine Plus* Trims should be used in front of ranch sliders in high sun that allow for the required 12mm expansion

### INSTALLATION PROCESS:

- ▲ 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.
- ▲ Ensure the floor is level, clean and structurally stable otherwise the floor will fail.
- ▲ 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 Plus* can be installed in a floating method however in direct sunlight and heavy furniture areas such as lounges, you are required to adhere the flooring using an acrylic LVT adhesive.**
- ▲ Carefully remove all skirtings prior to laying.
- ▲ **When installing, or re-installing the skirting board onto the *Alpine Plus* flooring, a minimum gap of 1 to 1.5mm must be maintained between the bottom of the skirting and the *Alpine*. This gap must remain clear to allow for expansion and not filled with silicone or gap filler. We recommend the use of a 1-1.5mm packer to maintain the separation.**
- ▲ Door trim should be undercut so your floor can expand and contract, freely (a key consideration when installing stone-composite flooring).

## HANDLING:

- ▲ Be gentle during installation: *Alpine Plus* 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.

## CENTRAL/TRANSITIONAL EXPANSION JOINTS:

*Alpine Plus* 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 Plus* flooring. If, however, boxes prior to installing have been stored in extreme temperatures (under 0°C or over 40°C) within 12 hours of laying, acclimatisation is required back to normal room temperature (20-25°C).

Maintain normal room temperature whilst laying *Alpine Plus* 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 3mm over 3m.
- ▲ Ensure that the subfloor has got minimal flex or deviation and no more than 0.5mm over 1 m.
- ▲ 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 Plus* 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 to below 75%RH 60-90 days prior to laying *Alpine Plus* and be smooth, dry, 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.
- ▲ Please do not install if the subfloor is not flat and firm.

## PERIMETER EXPANSION JOINTS:

A key consideration when installing stone composite flooring is to be sure to leave an expansion gap around all perimeters of the floor between *Alpine Plus* flooring and wall junction, of no less than 6mm but no less than 1mm per running metre. ie: a 14m running floor requires 14mm expansion minimum, ie: 7mm each end. 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 Plus* 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. To ensure the Alpine floor can move freely, it is recommended to use a 1-1.5mm gap between the finished floor and skirting.

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.

<https://www.valinge.se/products/click-flooring-technology>

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 spacer against the wall to allow a minimum of 6mm or 1mm per running metre 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).

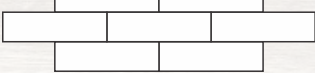
Hot tip – lay first two rows at the same time. This keeps the joints of the first row totally square, and cast an eagle-eye over it to make sure it is in. There should be no visible gap between planks. If seams do not appear tight between short ends, unclick the planks gently (see instructions below)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

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

- ▲ **Please ensure Kitchen units are not installed on top of *Alpine Plus* 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).
- ▲ **Benchtops: Ensure waterfall ends are installed prior to *Alpine Plus* flooring onto an 8mm packer with at least a 15mm rebate under the waterfall end.** Alternatively, if post flooring installation, the waterfall end does not rest on the flooring. This allows for expansion and contraction.
- ▲ Underfloor heating needs to have a minimum of 5mm separation from the floor.
- ▲ We recommend exterior awnings and/or interior curtains, blinds and/or UV-protected windows be in place to protect flooring from prolonged direct sunlight and UV rays that can cause fading. Excessive heat can also cause the floor to move beyond performance parameters.
- ▲ 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 the use of *Alpine Plus* Trims that allow for the required 12mm expansion combined with an **acrylic LVT adhesive to minimise lateral movement.**

## Q&A *Alpine Plus* Installation

### Q: Can *Alpine Plus* be installed over existing flooring?

Yes, your existing flooring needs to be solid flat and stable. *Alpine Plus* can not be installed over soft floor coverings like carpet or soft backed vinyl. If installed over tiles, all grout lines need to be filled.

### Q: Does *Alpine Plus* Flooring require gluing?

In most situations *Alpine Plus* needs to be glued down. If you anchor the floor with furniture, the whole floor needs to be glued down. As part of E3/AS1, *Alpine Plus* needs to be glued in all areas within 1.5m of all sanitary fixtures and fittings, and all edges need to be silicon sealed.

### Q: Why does the subfloor need to be smooth?

*Alpine Plus* is a rigid composite limestone and cannot support weight without being installed directly onto the flat and smooth subfloor.

### Q: Where can *Alpine Plus* Flooring be installed?

*Alpine Plus* is rated for use in all residential and light commercial. *Alpine Plus* is the ideal solution for areas where an authentic wood look is desired such as living rooms and kitchens.

### Q: Is *Alpine Plus* a DIY product?

Yes, *Alpine Plus* can be installed by a competent DIYer, however Tile Warehouse does recommend the use of a certified installer that is competent in floor preparation.

### Q: What Subfloor can *Alpine Plus* be installed on?

*Alpine Plus* can be installed over all subfloors if they are smooth, level and stable. Your subfloor needs to comply with NZS AS 1884:2013.

### Q: What glue do I need to use for gluing *Alpine Plus* Flooring?

Ardex: AF 2525  
AF 175  
AF 180  
or equivalent.

