

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR HYDROCORK AS A FLOATING FLOOR

GENERAL INFORMATION



Please read the following instructions before installation:

- Hydrocork PressFit connection system is designed to be installed vertically by pressing from top to bottom (without any angles).
- Packaged planks should be acclimatised at the job site in a dry, well ventilated area for a minimum of 48 hours.
- Acclimatisation and installation temperature should be between 18°C to 28°C.
- Never install Hydrocork PressFit on top of soft subfloors such as carpets and carpet tiles etc.
- Wooden subfloors or particle board subfloors must be mechanically fixed (by using screws). All tongue and groove joints should be glued with a suitable adhesive and the joints firmly closed.
- Make sure the subfloor meets the requirements of Hydrocork PressFit installation instructions. Please read carefully the subfloor preparation section.
- Hydrocork should be protected from heat and sunlight by the use of curtains and/or blinds. In areas that will be exposed to excessive heat or direct sunlight ($\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$) the flooring should be glued to the subfloor with the use of an acrylic adhesive (see Glue Down Instructions).
- No underlay is required with Hydrocork. If you wish to use an acoustic underlay it must comply with specific requirements. Please check Wicanders auxiliary product selector.
- Shade variation is an inherent and attractive characteristic of Hydrocork. To achieve the most pleasant blend of shades, shuffle the floor panels enough to avoid identical lighter or darker panels next to each other.
- Make sure the expansion gaps are minimum 5mm to 10mm and do not install any permanent and heavy structures like kitchen islands or cabinets on top of Hydrocork. These requirements can be avoided if Hydrocork PressFit is installed as a glue down (see Glue Down Instructions).
- Installation area should be kept very clean from dust and small grains during installation
- It is recommended to disconnect floor heating systems during installation.
- Variations in the subfloor should not exceed 3mm in 2 meters.
- Hydrocork PressFit floors are intended for indoor use only
- Subfloor preparation must comply with **AS/NZS1884:2013** or other applicable National Standards and Building Codes for Resilient Flooring. Information within this standard overrides any contradictory information contained within these instructions either stated or implied.



PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Transport, storage and acclimatization

Transport and store the cartons horizontally. Packed tiles should be acclimatised at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 48 hours. Remove tiles from packages just before starting the installation.

During storage and installation, maintain temperature and relative humidity to a level consistent with the conditions which will prevail when the building is occupied. In most cases, this means maintaining a temperature range from 18°C to 28°C and relative humidity range from 35% to 65%. In order to reach this climate, use heating or air conditioning in the appropriate duration of time before starting the installation.

Site inspection

Prior to installation, please inspect the tiles in daylight for any visible faults or damage, and also check if the subfloor and site conditions are in accordance with the specifications described within these instructions.

Quantum Group Importing & Distribution cannot be held responsible for claims associated with improper subfloors, improper applications, adhesives and the use of maintenance products not recommended, or detectable defects verifiable prior to installation. Installation is deemed as acceptance of the product.

Subfloor requirements

Hydrocork PressFit is suitable for indoor use only and can be installed in all domestic areas and in most commercial areas except in saunas and permanent wet areas. The subfloor must be even, dry and variations should not exceed 3mm over 2 meters. It is possible to use Hydrocork PressFit in other areas like bathrooms, or areas where spillages frequently occur since it will not swell when exposed to water. However, in order to prevent the water from penetrating under the installed floor (which can create conditions for growing of fungus, mould or smell), a polyurethane sealant must be applied on expansion joints

Hydrocork PressFit can be installed on top of most hard surfaces such as resilient floor coverings and ceramic tiles which are sufficiently fixed, completely levelled and have no loose areas. Soft subfloors such as carpets and similar must be removed. No underlay is required when installing Hydrocork. Old resilient floor coverings (like pvc, linoleum, cork etc) must be well glued down without loose areas.

Subfloor preparation

Subfloor preparation must comply with AS/NZS1884:2013 or other applicable National Standards and Building Codes for Resilient Flooring. Information within this standard overrides any contradictory information contained within these instructions either stated or implied.

In case of installation on a wooden subfloor (Hardwood / chipboard / OSB), please remove any existing floor covering first. No signs of mould and/or insect infestations should be visible. Make sure that the plywood and OSB subfloor are mechanically fixed (screwed), make sure that they are stable and show no movement anytime and at the same time the joints between the panels are even and firmly closed.

Existing laminate flooring, wood planks or engineered wood planks must be free of tensions. If there are any visible open seams and/ or height differences between panels than needs to be entirely removed.

Existing wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, drywall elements etc. must not be covered with PE foil acting as a vapour barrier. The area below the floor should also be sufficiently ventilated in an adequate way (back-vented skirting board) to maintain the equilibrium moisture content of the wood planks, engineered wood boards, OSB panels, drywall elements. Make sure there is sufficient ventilation (minimum 4cm² (0.62" ²) total ventilation openings per 1m² of flooring). The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.

Hydrocork PressFit on Tiled floors

The maximum grout joint should not be wider than 2mm and of 1mm depth. If this is not the case, or if there is any kind of embossing, skim coat the grout lines or embossed surface with a floor leveller. All types of concrete or ceramic subfloors must be even, dry and variations should not exceed 3mm in 2m and be flat.

Radiant-Heated Subfloors

For Wicanders floating floors the temperature of the subfloor must not exceed 28°C. For detailed information, follow the instructions supplied by the subfloor heating system manufacturer/contractor, or contact your supplier. Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as heat accumulators and will increase the floor surface temperature more than the maximum surface temperature recommended (must not exceed 20 - 22 °C).

The drying of a heated subfloor has to be made by turning the heating on/off with a pause before installation of the floor, following a documented protocol. After that you can begin the "heating phase". The beginning of the heating phase in concrete subfloors is to be made not before 21 days after complete curing of the substrate. The heating phase has to begin with running temperature of 25°C (78°F) during 3 days. The subfloor should be cured for at least 60-90 days.

The temperature should then be increased each day until the maximum temperature allowed is achieved according to the manufacturers system. This maximum value should be kept for at least 72 hours and maintained for 5-7 days without any turning off. The decrease of temperature is made by reducing it gradually every day until 18°C on the surface is achieved. During the installation, the temperature of the surface should not exceed 18°C and should be kept for 3 days after finishing the installation. Then the temperature should be increased slowly to a max. of 28°C on the subfloor surface.

Screeds with underfloor heating

When using Hydrocork PressFit in a heated subfloor installation, the surface temperature of the subfloor must not exceed 28°C. For detailed information, follow the instructions supplied by the subfloor heating system manufacturer/contractor or contact your supplier. All hot water pipes and electrical heating elements should be embedded in concrete or a cementitious screed in accordance with the appropriate building codes and regulations.

The drying of a heated subfloor has to be made by turning the heating on/off with a pause before installation of the floor, following a documented protocol. After that you can begin the heating phase. The beginning of the heating phase in concrete subfloors is to be made not before 21 days after complete curing of the substrate. The heating phase has to begin with running temperature of 25°C, (78°F) during 3 days. The subfloor should be in place and cured for at least 60-90 days.

The temperature should then be increased each day until the maximum temperature allowed according to the manufacturer system. This maximum value should be kept for at least 72 hours and maintained for 5-7 days without any turning off. The decrease of temperature is made by reducing it gradually every day until 18°C on the surface is achieved.

The heating system must be turned on eight days before the application of the levelling compound, so that the concrete slab dries completely. The heat should be turned off before the levelling compound is applied. Then 3 days after the flooring is installed, increase slowly to a normal level. A maximum of 28°C (82°F) should be maintained on the subfloor surface.

Important notes:

- Failure to observe these precautions can cause a build-up of moisture or partial evaporation of the levelling compound, or fast drying of adhesive.
- If the heat is turned on when the adhered material has not been conditioned properly on-site for at least 7 days and is not completely dry, the material may shrink. Avoid abruptly turning on radiant heat when cooler weather prevails as it will subject the flooring to rapid movement of expansion and or contraction. Gradually increase temperature regardless of the season.
- The adhesive used must be suitable for heated subfloors.
- No responsibility will be accepted in case of malfunctioning of the heating system and related problems.
- For Hydrocork PressFit, the surface temperature of the subfloor must not exceed 28°C. For detailed information, follow the instructions supplied by the subfloor heating system manufacturer/contractor, or contact your supplier. Remember that rugs or mats placed on top of the floor may function as heat accumulators and will increase the floor surface temperature more than the maximum surface temperature recommended by your supplier.

Unsuitable temperature and ventilation conditions

The Hydrocork PressFit should be installed at approximately the same temperature that it will be exposed to later on during use. The Hydrocork PressFit should not be installed at a subfloor temperature below 18°C (65°F) and the relative humidity should be between 35% to 65% as this kind of indoor climate can have adverse effects on the flooring itself and in its processing.

Moisture Protection

Hydrocork PressFit must only be installed on subfloors where the moisture content complies with recommended testing as per AS/NZS1884:2013. Despite its age, there is always a risk of moisture in subfloors. Subfloors must be permanently dry on concrete subfloors without radiant heat. Consider the maximum humidity less than 75% RH or conduct calcium chloride moisture tests to ensure that moisture emission levels are less than 3lbs/1000ft²/24 hours (USA and Canada), or Calcium Carbide (CM) Test:



Type of Subfloor	Moisture content CM% Heated	Non-heated
Concrete	1,5	2,0
Anhydrite	0,3	0,5



DURING INSTALLATION

Expansion Gaps:

Wicanders Hydrocork is typically installed as a "floating floor", so the planks are not fixed to the subfloor. The skirting boards/mouldings cannot be pressed down, or restrict the movement of the floor. Also provide 5mm to 10mm expansion gaps to the walls and other fixed objects. Skirting boards/mouldings should cover minimum 7mm of the floor and a 2mm gap allowed between the plank and the skirting.

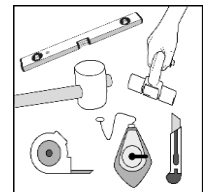
Transitions between two rooms and asymmetrical floor areas require additional expansion gaps in floor areas greater than 100m² or with dimensions bigger than 10m in either direction. These requirements can be avoided, if Hydrocork PressFit is installed as a glue down (see glue down installation instructions).

Installation with excessive heat or direct sunlight

Hydrocork should be protected from heat and sunlight by the use of curtains and or blinds. In areas which will be exposed to excessive heat (≥ 45 °C) or direct sunlight the flooring must be glued to the subfloor with the use of an acrylic adhesive (see Glue Down instructions).

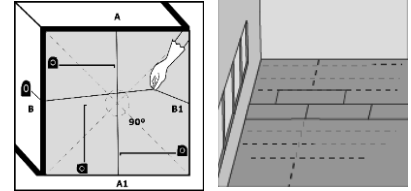
Tools and Materials Required

Tape measure, craft knife, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, white rubber hammer or hand roller

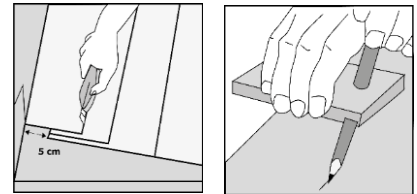


Measurements

Check the wall where you are starting the installation and make sure it is squared to the opposite wall. Simply measure the room from the opposite ends of the wall. If measurements are different make the necessary adjustments on the first row. Draw a line using a chalk-line. Install the planks where possible parallel to the incoming light from windows

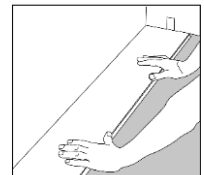


Make sure that the widths of the first and last rows planks are equal or bigger than 5cm (2") of the plank. If the wall is very uneven, cut the planks with the corresponding width to eliminate the unevenness. Place the first plank on top of the second row and cut as indicated. Or draw the outline of the wall by "sliding" a cut off-piece along the wall. Then cut the planks along the line.

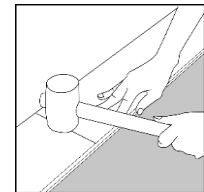


Laying

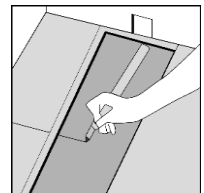
On wooden floors, we recommend laying Hydrocork crossways to the existing floorboard. Start installing in the right-hand corner with the tongue side of the plank facing the wall. The Hydrocork connection system is designed to be installed in a vertical connection by pressing from top to bottom (without making any angles). Maintain a gap between 5mm and 10mm from the wall.



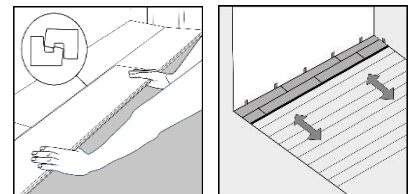
Hold the next plank tight to the short end of the first one matching the corner and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a rubber hammer. Make sure that the long sides of the planks make a straight line. Complete first row in the same way and cut final plank of the first row to the correct length. The distance to the wall should be 5mm to 10mm.



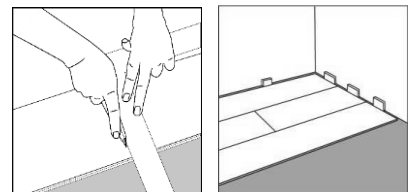
Start next row with the piece leftover (must be at least 300mm long), ensuring that end joints are staggered at least 300mm. Place the first plank of the new row with the tongue side matching the groove side of the plank in the previous row and then press it down with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a rubber hammer.



Place the second plank ensuring that no joint is noticed between short sides by certifying that the plank is positioned on the integral connection of the plank in the previous row. At the same time, match the tongue side on the long side of the plank to the groove of the previous row and starting press it down on the short side with the help of a hand roller, or slightly tap with a rubber hammer. Adjust the distance giving 5mm to 10mm gap to the wall when three rows are completed and proceed with the installation as described above until reaching the opposite wall.

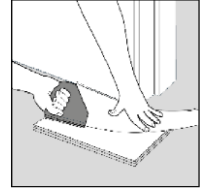


Cut the last plank to the correct width. Place the last plank on top of the second to last row and cut as indicated. Allow a 5mm to 10mm distance to the wall for the expansion gap. The width of the last row of planks should be equal or bigger than 5cm (2").



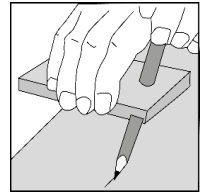
Door Frames

If a door frame needs to be cut, use a piece of plank to obtain the correct height. Saw the door frame and architrave to the required height allowing for 2mm of space to the planks. The planks can be laid from all directions. This makes it easier to plan the installation.



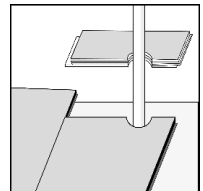
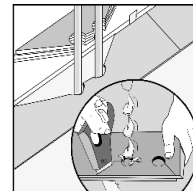
Uneven walls

Sometimes the first row must be cut to match an uneven wall. Transfer the shape of the wall to the planks. Do not forget to allow 5mm to 10mm for the expansion gap. The width of the first row of planks should be equal or bigger than 5cm.



Heating Pipes

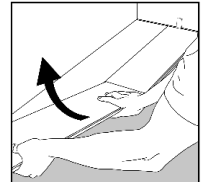
Drill the required holes in the planks, making a hole on the plank 10mm bigger than the pipe diameter. Cut the plank with a 45° angle towards the hole. The cut-off piece is glued in the position again. Cover the hole with a pipe sleeve.



AFTER INSTALLATION

Removing the floor

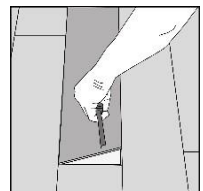
If you wish to uninstall the floor, start from the opposite side where the installation started. Lift the plank first on the short side and pull up the plank in the long side pressing down the adjacent planks to separate them.



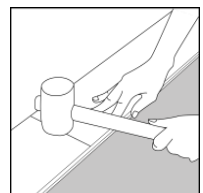
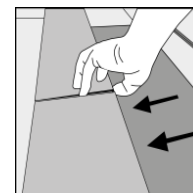
REPAIRING PRESSFIT FLOATING FLOORS

Replacing a damaged plank – Option A

Cut the plank you wish to replace on a short side. Lift the plank that you want to remove a few centimetres. Two sides of the plank need to be lifted, and the other two need to be pressed down to separate it from the adjacent planks.

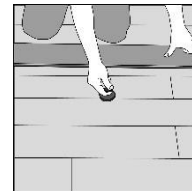


Put the new plank into place, by inserting the tongue side under the adjacent planks and pressing it down with the help of a hand roller or slightly tap it with a rubber hammer.



Replacing a damaged plank – Option B

Lift the plank that you want to remove a few centimetres with the help of suction cups. Two sides of the plank need to be lifted, and the other two need to be pressed down to separate it from the adjacent planks.



Put the new plank into place, by inserting the tongue side under the adjacent planks and pressing it down with the help of a hand roller or slightly tap it with a rubber hammer.

