

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Important Information

It is important to employ safe working practices when cutting or fitting floor coverings. Protective eyewear and safe footwear (steel capped preferably) should be worn throughout the installation to help prevent against injury. Dust extraction and respiratory protection (appropriate dust masks) should be used when cutting flooring or trims using a saw of any type. Materials Safety Data Sheets are available by contacting your local Premium Floors branch. If using ancillary products like levelling compounds etc, it is recommended to adhere to the specific safety requirements as stated by the manufacturer of the product.

## GENERAL

1. We recommend to order all panels for the same flooring project at the same time. Compatibility of panels in repeated orders cannot be guaranteed.
2. Make sure the panels are sufficiently mixed when you install them, so that you do not end up with too many identical, light or dark panels in the same area.
3. Check all panels in daylight before and during installation. Defective panels must never be used.
4. The floor should preferably be installed parallel to how the light enters the room.
5. Ensure that the end joints of the panels in 2 successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 15cm (6 inches).
6. Ensure that the indoor climate conditions are always kept between 18-25°C.
7. It is also important to keep the subfloor in the above mentioned temperature range to counteract dimensional variations.
8. Floor heating can be used with Titan Vinyl up to a maximum contact temperature of 27° C. Switch off your floor heating 24h before and after installation. For subfloor preparation see floor heating instructions below.

## BEFORE YOU START

For a good result, you must follow all given instructions carefully.

### Acclimatization and storing conditions

- Always handle, store and transport Titan Vinyl carefully to prevent distortions. Store and transport cartons on a flat surface in neat stacks. Store cartons flat, never put them upright.
- Do not store Titan Vinyl in moist or dusty rooms or places with extreme temperatures.
- Titan Vinyl must be allowed to acclimatize in the room of installation. Planks must be stored between 18°C-25°C, for a period of at least 48 hours before installation. The temperature needs to be maintained prior to, during and for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed. Boxes should be acclimatized next to each other on a flat surface.
- Acclimatization is critical because vinyl is reactive to temperature change. As it heats up, it will grow, while when cooling it will shrink. As such the planks must be brought to the correct temperature range before the job, and kept there until the adhesive has fully cured. This will prevent gapping and peaking of your planks while the adhesive is drying.

## Subfloor

The type of subfloor, its quality and its preparation will have a big influence on the final installation result. All subfloors should be prepared in accordance with Australian Standards AS1884:2012. If the subfloor does not seem appropriate for the installation of Titan Vinyl, then the necessary actions should be taken. Actually all subfloors should be leveled, because the slightest unevenness in the subfloor will leave marks in Titan Vinyl.

1. Make sure that the subfloor is flat, clean (including free from fat, grease, chemical substances,...), sound, stable and dry. When needed, scrape off and clean up old adhesives.
2. Prior to installation:
  - **Soft floorcoverings:**  
All soft floorcoverings and its debris should be removed before installation. (eg. vinyl, carpet, linoleum, cork, ...). After removal proceed as in 4.
  - **Screed:**  
The moisture content of the subfloor must be less than 75% RH in case of cement screeds. If the moisture content is higher, an appropriate liquid damp proof layer can be applied, according to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Always measure, record and keep your test results. First repair major surface imperfections and large cracks with an appropriate repair compound or sand the screed or anhydrite if required. Sweep and vacuum to remove all debris.
  - **Wood flooring (timber):**  
Carefully remove all debris (including loose nails), sweep and vacuum. Loose planks should be nailed or screwed. The timber floor now needs to be sheeted with MDF or Masonite. Fix the sheets with the correct type of fasteners at 100mm intervals around the perimeter, and at 150mm centres throughout the ply board. Then use a feathering compound to smooth out any open sheet joints and achieve the required flat, even surface. Sweep and vacuum the MDF or Masonite to remove dust and debris before installing the flooring.
  - **Tile flooring:**  
If necessary, use a levelling compound to level all joints between the tiles. Preferably apply a second levelling layer as mentioned in 4.
3. If you are not certain about the quality or suitability of your subfloor for installation of Titan Vinyl then contact your dealer; he will be more than happy to help you.
4. It is normally necessary to apply a primer, to ensure the smoothing/levelling compound has a good adhesion to the subfloor. Use the recommended applicator, following the instructions of the primer compound. Once dry, apply a smoothing/levelling compound with a thickness of 3-5 mm, with an appropriate trowel, according to the manufacturer's instruction. Finish the application with a spike roller to avoid air inclusions. Respect the recommended drying time as indicated by the producer. Prior to installing the vinyl, sand the levelling layer as recommended and vacuum.

## Final check before installation

It is good practice to make a final check of the subfloor for minor defects.

## Install planks and roll to ensure good adhesion.

1. Preferably install the panels parallel to the direction of the sunlight.
2. Measure the room and find the centre line. Starting the installation from the centre line ensures a straight and symmetrical installation. If necessary you can shift the starting point to prevent any unnecessary small cuts. Titan Vinyl can easily be cut with a cutter or utility knife with the décor side face up.
3. Dry lay one plank per row (without adhesive) from this centre line to the wall and ensure no small cuts are needed. Take away these planks.
4. Then start the installation from the centre line. Mix up the panels to become a nice pattern.
5. Dry lay the planks of 2 rows at a time. It is strongly recommended to stagger the rows so that the short edge seams are not in a straight uniform line. However you may want to try other patterns of planks to suit your taste. Cut the end planks to size ensuring an accurate cut.
6. Now all panels of the rows are ready to be installed on the glue without unnecessary waiting time.
7. Pull back the rows of panels and apply glue to the floor using an A2 trowel. Use only the recommended Vinyl glue, which has especially been developed for the installation of Titan Vinyl.
8. After application of the glue, allow the adhesive to "tack off" for 5 to 10 minutes. It will go slightly sticky, while it will be easier to install the planks without the glue coming between the planks.
9. Then place planks into the adhesive and roll to ensure good adhesive transfer. All glue residue should immediately be removed with a damp cloth, never use detergents.
10. Use the same procedure to complete the other side of the room.
11. Roll the complete floor to ensure good adhesive transfer.
12. Leave the floor for 24 hours after installation between 18°C-25°C.

## FLOOR HEATING

Titan Vinyl can be installed in conjunction with 'low temperature' floor heating. This is true for underfloor heating systems with heating components - hot water or electric - embedded in the floor. Heating films or other "new" systems CANNOT be used.

The floor heating must be installed in accordance with the supplier's instructions and the generally accepted instructions and rules. The base floor must be sufficiently DRY when installing the floor covering. This will only be achieved by turning on the heating beforehand, as described below. In the case of a new building, you must wait at least 21 days between the installation of the screed and starting the heating. With newly installed screed, follow the guidelines of your installer. A heating protocol should be presented; ask for it if necessary. The subfloor must comply and be prepared as described above.

Start the floor heating at least two weeks before laying your Titan Vinyl. Raise the water temperature in the boiler gradually by no more than 5°C per day up to 50°C. If you can leave the heating on for longer, this would certainly be better.

Turn off the heating completely 24 hours before laying your floor.

AFTER laying the floor, you must wait AT LEAST 48 hours before restarting the heating, gradually (5°C per day). The maximum permitted contact temperature under the Titan Vinyl is 27°C.

The maximum hot water temperature at the exit of the heating furnace is 45°C.

ALWAYS change the temperature GRADUALLY at the start and end of a heating period.

Make sure that the climate condition in the rooms is ALWAYS kept between 18-25°C and 45-65% relative humidity.

- Always avoid heat accumulation by carpets or rugs put on the floor, or by leaving insufficient space between furniture and the floor.
- Changing temperatures during different seasons can cause changing in dimensions.

## PRECAUTIONS

1. Titan Vinyl has been designed for interior installations and only in temperature controlled environments. Titan Vinyl cannot be installed in solarium, over carpets, or any exterior application including seasonal porches, caravans and boats.
2. It is recommended to avoid direct sunlight exposure as much as possible. Direct sunlight exposure may damage the floor as colour changes might occur.
3. Titan Vinyl can have a dimensional deviation. Visible joints between planks is a characteristic of the product.
4. Flooring mats and furniture should be moved from time to time to avoid permanent colour changes.
5. Titan Vinyl is not intended for use on stairs or any vertical surface.
6. Provide furniture feet with appropriate felt protectors.
7. Castor chairs must be provided with soft, free-turning, non-rubber wheels and/or office castor mats can be installed.
8. Do not allow pets with sharp nails to walk on the floor as these nails may cause deep scratches.
9. Make sure furniture legs have a large surface and are provided with non-staining felt floor protectors. The taller and/or wider the furniture feet are, the lower the "point loading" will be on the floor and the less chance there is to damage the floor.
10. Prolonged contact with rubber can cause a permanent stain.
11. Do not allow cigarettes, matches or other very hot items to contact the floor as this may cause permanent damage.
12. Place non-rubber backed mats at outside entrances to prevent dirt, grit and soil from being tracked onto your floor. This will reduce damages, the maintenance requirement and extend the life of your floor.

## MAINTENANCE

### First cleaning after installation

First remove all dirt and dust from the flooring with a brush or vacuum cleaner. Then clean with water and a neutral appropriate cleaning agent, at least twice and until the water stays clean. We strongly recommend using Premium Cork & Timber Cleaner. Any other cleaning product may contain agents that damage resilient floor surfaces. The coating of the top-layer makes a specific treatment after installation unnecessary.

### Periodic cleaning and maintenance

Regular cleaning keeps your floor beautiful. Always remove immediately grit, sharp objects, staining agents, moisture or aggressive substances from the flooring. Routine cleaning can easily be done by sweeping, vacuum cleaning or damp wiping. Never use aggressive cleaning agents, soap or abrasive cleaners or cleaners containing oil or waxes. We strongly recommend using Premium Cork & Timber Cleaner as other cleaning products may damage your flooring surface. Do not pour water over the floor or leave a puddle of water on the floor.

Remove stains as fast as possible. The longer spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanent staining. An efficient way to remove stubborn stains is to use ice till the material is brittle enough to crumble off. Afterwards, you can remove the residue with Premium Cork & Timber Cleaner.

Persistent stains may be removed by means of Eucalyptus Oil or an appropriate PU cleaner.