



Atrafloor

Your preparation & installation guide

Atrafloor Preparation Guide

Storing and acclimatisation

- Store the box or tube upright.
Where possible, store all packages in the room/area that the vinyl will be installed in. When the box cannot be stored in the same room/area of install, store them in an area
- with a similar temperature.
- It is important to loose lay the vinyl for at least 24 hours to allow it to acclimatise properly to the environment. If the above conditions were not met, allow for at least 48 hours. (See installation guide for more information).

Surface/subfloor preparation

Remove any existing floor coverings.

The subfloor should be even to ensure maximum adhesion and best quality finish. Any unevenness may show through the flooring.

Can I install over my existing vinyl or lino?

It is best practice to remove any existing vinyl or linoleum and apply directly to one of the subfloor categories below. Installing vinyl over existing vinyl can create a sweating point between the two floorings, potentially causing shrinkage and staining.

Check moisture levels

Vinyl shouldn't be installed on subfloors that are too moist, this is particularly important with concrete subfloors. If you are unsure, you can use a hygrometer (these can be found and bought easily online). The subfloor is considered damp when readings are above 75%. If the subfloor is proven to be damp, a suitable damp proof membrane should be used (these are readily available at DIY stores and online).

Identify your subfloor

- Wood (page 2)
- Concrete (page 2)
- Tile (page 2)
- Metal (page 3)
- Raised access flooring (page 3)

Wood subfloors

e.g. existing floorboards, hardboard, chipboard and particleboard

- 1) Remove and replace any damaged floor boards or any floorboards with excessive bending or give when walked on.
- 2) Ensure all boards are secure. Any loose floorboards should be firmly nailed down.
- 3) Ensure the surface is free from any protruding objects such as nails, screwheads or debris. Punch any protruding nail heads below the surface of the subfloor.
- 4) In a situation where your subfloor is not level, this should be planed and/or levelled using a suitable levelling compound and allow to completely dry according to manufacturer's instructions. If you are unsure how to do this, you may wish to contact a professional.
- 5) Once the above criteria is met, lay 4-6mm / ¼ inch plywood on top of your subfloor, butted and securely fitted. Where possible stagger the joints of the planks to achieve a smooth finish when the vinyl is installed. Plywood joints should be filled with a suitable smoothing compound. The use of plywood allows the product to breathe.

Concrete subfloors

- 1) New concrete should be allowed sufficient time to dry. This can take weeks. If in doubt, please consult your builder.
- 2) Ensure moisture levels are suitable as above in the **Check Moisture Levels** section.
- 3) All cracks, holes or grooves should be filled in using a suitable repair compound.
- 4) If the subfloor is not level, you can use suitable self-levelling compound. Allow to completely dry according to manufacturer's instructions. *Do not fill expansion joints, use a suitable joint cover.

* Most concrete floors will follow the above instructions. However, if you have power floated concrete this will require mechanical preparation prior to install of vinyl such as shot blasting, scarifying or grinding. This is because this type of concrete is susceptible to laitance (a weak layer of cement and aggregate fines).

Tile subfloors

Atrafloor can be laid over existing tiles as long as they are secure and in an acceptable condition.

- 1) Remove and replace any damaged tiles.
- 2) Secure any loose tiles with an appropriate adhesive.
- 3) Ensure moisture levels are suitable as above in **Check Moisture Levels** section.
- 4) Thoroughly clean, prime and apply an appropriate self-levelling compound according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Metal subfloors

- 1) Thoroughly clean the surface to ensure the metal is free from grease, wax, paint or any other dirt.
- 2) Scarify or grind the metal to ensure it is free from rust or any other contaminants.
- 3) Prime the surface.
- 4) Apply a suitable levelling compound according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Raised access flooring

Atrafloor should not be applied directly to raised access flooring.

- 1) Ensure all panels are in good condition, stable and level.
- 2) Once the above criteria is met, lay 4-6mm / ¼ inch plywood on top of your subfloor, butted and securely fitted using fixings appropriate fixings for the raised access floor. Where possible stagger the joints of the planks to achieve a smooth finish when the vinyl is installed. Plywood joins should be filled with a suitable smoothing compound.

Installation Guide

Tools you'll need for install

- Heavy duty stanley/utility knife - ensure blade is sharp
- Roller for adhesive
- Notched Adhesive Trowel/Spreader (may come with adhesive)
- Straight edge
- Cold Weld
- Sealant
- Masking tape
- Damp proof membrane (if necessary, you can find these at your local DIY store).

Health and safety tips

- You may wish to wear knee pads, as a lot of the installation will be on your knees.
- Ensure that your stanley/utility knife blade is covered or retracted when not in use.
- Don't make cuts directly towards fingers or too close to other body parts so that you may injure yourself if the knife slips.

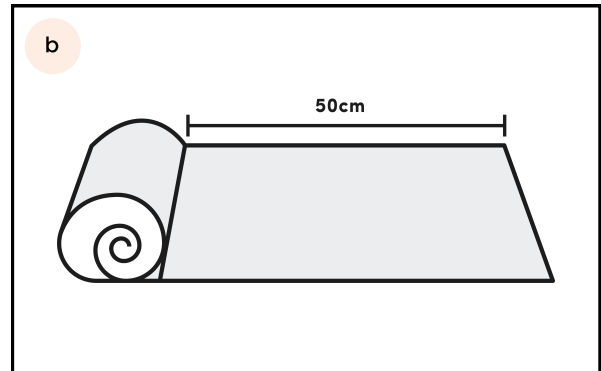
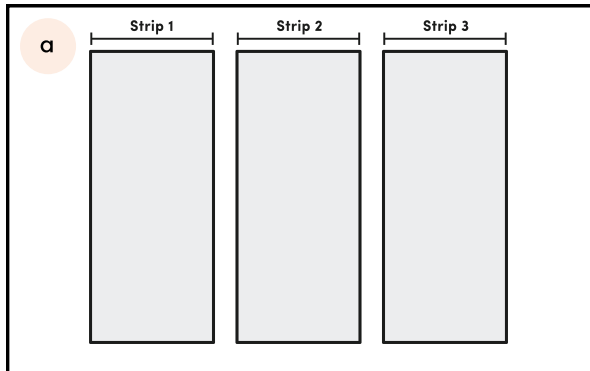
Loose lay

24 hours prior to install -

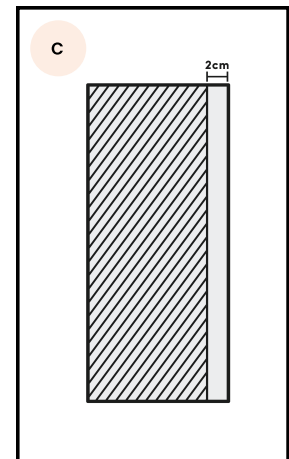
- 1) The subfloor surface must be thoroughly cleaned and free from grease, wax, paint and any other dirt or contaminants.
- 2) Ensure any underfloor heating is off.
- 3) The ideal conditions for installation are between 18°C (64.4 °F) and 26 °C (78.8 °F).
- 4) Unroll your flooring and identify each strip, arrange them to ensure all panels are there. Take this opportunity to check over the product for any defects or pattern match issues (please bear in mind the pattern will match when the strips are overlapped by 2cm / 0.79in). If any defects are found, please report this to our customer service team at contact@atrafloor.com as we can't accept returns once cutting and adhesion has begun.
- 5) Turn panels over, unroll and loose lay design side down to stop the vinyl curling back up.
- 6) Leave the vinyl like this for at least 24 hours. This will allow the vinyl to acclimatise to the temperature and conditions of its new home.

Time to install

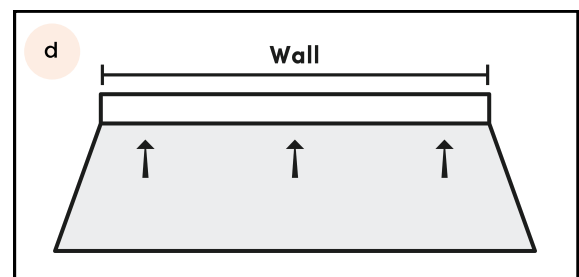
- 1) **Loose lay all of your panels in order on the floor (a), overlapping each by approximately 2cm (0.79in).** Keep an eye out for any walls that may cause you issues during installation such as walls that are not perfectly straight or on an angle. We advise to have your panels resting at least 1 – 2cm up the walls during these early stages (this will be in preparation for step 5).
- 2) **Roll up your starting strip, leaving approximately 50cm (19.7in) unrolled (b), then position up against the edge of the installation area.**



- 3) With the rolled up starting panel in position, you can now apply your choice of adhesive on the subfloor. Please note, if a strip is going to be applied next to this strip, **leave a 2cm (0.79in) gap clear of adhesive for the overlap (c).** If you only have one panel to install, you do not need to leave this gap. If your floor is longer than 1 metre, we suggest to apply the solution then unroll the panel 1 metre in length at a time. Ensure the solution is thinly and evenly applied to your subfloor. We recommend using a floor roller to reduce the possibility of air pockets between your subfloor and vinyl.



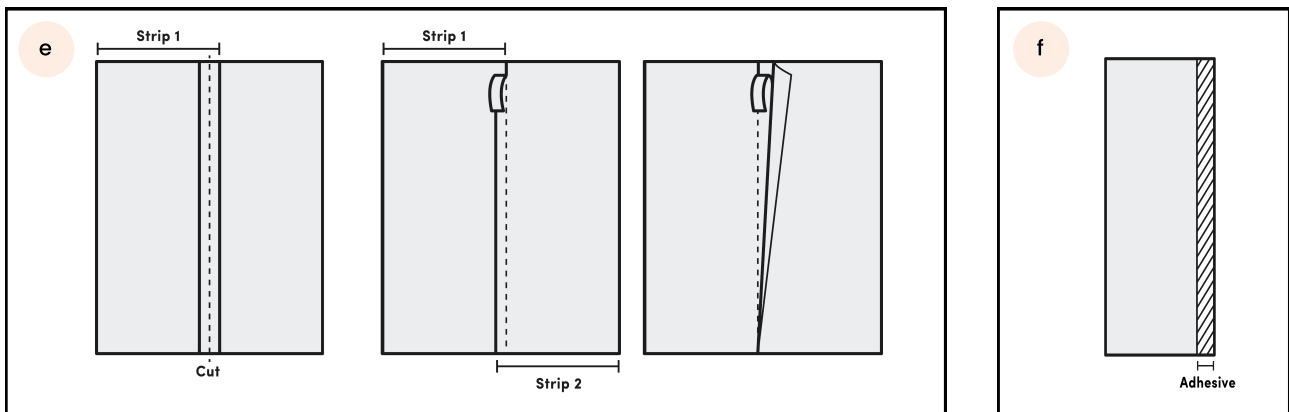
- 4) Once fully positioned, leave to set for 5 minutes. Return to the gap left at the top that is 50cm (19.7in) or less (as mentioned in point 2). Repeat the adhesion application stage for this section, leaving the 2cm gap if there will be more panels to install.
- 5) Finally, **push and tuck the flooring into corners or edge of installation area with a flat edge so that this is tight and flush (d).** Safely cut away any excess with your floor cutting knife.



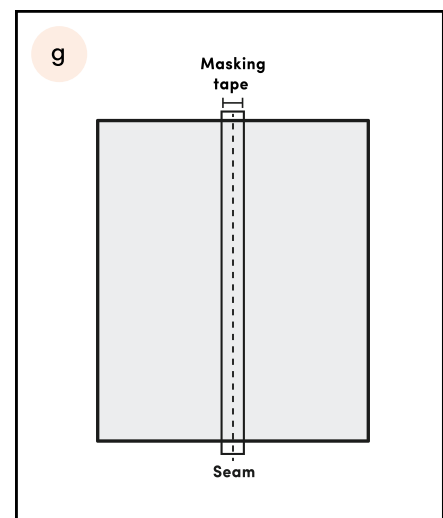
Congratulations! Your panel should be securely fitted.

The following stages will be for flooring which include multiple panels and how to install with an overlap.

- 6) Loose lay your next panel, overlapping the previous one by approximately 2cm (0.79in), ensuring the pattern matches down the full length of the strips before proceeding to the next step. Weight down the strips or use a second person so that the strips stay aligned.
- 7) Repeat stages 4, 5 and 6 with this panel.
- 8) Once this panel is installed, safely cut in the middle of the overlapped section down the full length of the sheet. Ensure that the cut goes through both sheets to the subfloor (e). Peel away the trimmed vinyl from the sheets to create a tight seam.



- 9) Evenly apply a strip of adhesive solution underneath the sheets where a 2cm area of the subfloor was left without adhesive in previous steps (f). Next, press down the two panels into place. You should now see your design match from one panel to the next.
- 10) Repeat steps 6, 7, 8 and 9 for any remaining strips.
- 11) Once the adhesive has set, apply masking tape over the entire length of each seam, this will prevent cold weld spilling onto your flooring. Cut down the masking tape with a stanley knife, being careful not to cut into the vinyl. Next, inject the cold weld into the seam along the length of your strip (g). Peel the masking tape off and wipe away any excess cold weld.
- 12) For added water resistance, seal edges with silicone.



Congratulations, your new floor is now fully installed!

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