READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE STARTING INSTALLATION
All installed boards will be considered as accepted by the installer and/or homeowner. Any defects should be reported to the wholesaler or retailer immediately for inspection and/or replacement. We cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.
For commercial purposes contact Embelton for information and advice

FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSE ONLY

Warranty Provider

GP Embelton & Co Pty Ltd | 147 Bakers Road (PO Box 207), Coburg VIC 3058 Australia T: 1800 889 181 | E: customerservice@embelton.com W: embelton.com | Updated: 25.01.2019
Pre-Installation Checklist

Moisture Checks

While Embelton Hybrid products are completely waterproof, they will only perform as well as the subfloor beneath, that is why it is important to ensure the subfloor is clean, flat and dry prior to and after installation.

Timber substrates can particularly react to moisture, bowing and warping to affect the level of the subfloor, this may compromise the integrity of the locking system and effect the visual appeal of the material.

For comprehensive information on checking for signs of moisture, please refer to our timber, bamboo and laminate installation guide, which offers solutions on how to achieve a permanently dry subfloor.

External Site Inspection

- Ventilation - Check there is sufficient airflow underneath the structure to prevent moisture build-up below the substrate.
- External drainage - Poor drainage will allow moisture to build up under the property. Check for garden beds against the walls of the foundation. Ensure foundations are thoroughly checked prior to installation.
- External Plumbing - Check for leaks.
- Blocked Downpipes - Causes moisture ingress into walls, which can enter the floor.

Internal Site Inspection

- Leaky Equipment - Check for watermarks around doorways, ceilings and walls from fridges, washing machines, dishwashers, heating and cooling appliances.
- Leaky Fixtures and Seals - Check for poorly sealed sinks, shower basins and other plumbing fixtures.
- High Humidity Heating and Cooling Systems - Evaporative coolers are not recommended with engineered timber, bamboo or laminate floors as if not used correctly, they can cause extreme internal humidity levels - It is essential in these high risk installations, that maximum raft size and expansion allowances are adhered to.

The Internal Environment

Underfloor Heating

- Under normal use, Embelton Hybrid floors are permitted over underfloor heating systems. The homeowner should be consulted about proper use of the system to ensure the validity of the warranty.
- The flooring material should never be exposed to temperatures greater than 27 degrees, while using underfloor heating.

Optimum Laying Conditions

- Normal living conditions under which the floor will be exposed, is optimal for installation
- Room temperature should always remain between 15-30 degrees
- Humidity levels should always remain within 30-70%

Heat Sources

- Prolonged exposure excessive dry heat can cause Hybrid floors to contract and expand abnormally, which can cause gapping between boards.
- Use of internal heating systems such as floor ducted heating vents and fireplaces, must be regulated to prevent excessive dry environments.

Maintaining Relative Humidity

- While Embelton Hybrid floors are very stable, is important that the floor’s environment is regulated to normal living conditions once the installation is complete.

Appropriate Window Furnishings

- While Embelton Hybrid products are very stable, harsh direct sunlight can cause the products to expand and contract abnormally, this will cause discolouration to the surface and peaking of the material.
- Check all external windows and doors have appropriate furnishings such as blinds, shutters, curtains and window tinting to prevent harsh direct sunlight affecting the floor.

Floor Levels:

It is essential that subfloor levels meet Australian standards to ensure no vertical deflection, nor compromise the locking profile. This is especially important in the case of Embelton Resilience and Esperance. As a general rule, the thinner the board, the greater the requirement for floor levelling.

Where the material is installed over tiles, ensure no lippages are present. Where a join falls over a grout line greater than 3mm in width, the tiles must be rectified to form a flat continuous surface.

General Notes

- Relevant Industry Standards require that subfloors must have no more than 3mm deviation over 1m.
- Protecting the Locking System - Embelton Hybrid floors are relatively thin compared to other types of floating floors, and require level subfloors to limit vertical deflection which can compromise the locking system.
- Levelling Checks - Using a straight edge tool, levelling checks must be performed, with results recorded in case of future warranty claims.
- Floor Prep - Where levelling is required, detailed logs should be recorded, including post levelling. Recommended options are outlined in the Installation section.

1 metre rule/straight edge

3mm Maximum Deviation
Acclimatisation & Storage

Embelton Hybrid floors do not require any acclimatisation however following these simple guidelines will make sure your floor meets the necessary requirements for installation:

- If the product is to be stored onsite, the cartons should only be opened when the installation is ready to commence. They should not be left opened for several hours/days.
- Once the product is laid, the internal environment should be regulated to normal living conditions.

Defective Boards

All installed boards will be considered as accepted by the installer and/or homeowner; therefore it is essential that the boards be thoroughly checked pre-installation, with adequate lighting.

Defective boards must not be laid and it is the responsibility of the installer to remove prior to installation.

Boards should be checked for the following prior to installation:

- **Board Defects** - Boards from multiple packs must be checked for defects such as chips, delamination and dents.
- **Excessive Colour Variation** - Boards from multiple packs must be checked for excessive colour variation.
- **Blending boards** from multiple packs during installation will balance out normal colour variation.
- **Locking System** - Check that it is clear and free of debris.

Floating Method

- While Hybrid floors are waterproof, protecting the subfloor from moisture is essential as the product will only perform as well as its subfloor.
- Hybrid floors come with their own underlay pre-installed, making installation efficient and easy.
- Hybrid floors are not suitable for stick down, except on Stairs, where matching Aqua-Tuf and Resilience Stairnosings are available.
- Cutting Embelton Hybrid boards is easy, with a good quality guillotine more than suitable for the job.

Matching Accessories

Embelton offers a wide variety of Scotia, C-Channels, Multi Angle Trims, Cover Tops and Universal Trims to match our Hybrid Range.

**Scotia**

- All Embelton Hybrid flooring products have Scotia options to match to adequately cover perimeter expansion gaps.
- Care should be taken to ensure that Scotia is pinned to the wall and not the floor, this will prevent natural raft movement.

**T-Mouldings**

- Available with Embelton Aqua-Tuf, T-Mouldings are excellent internal expansion solutions to break up raft sizes. They are ideal for cutting into doorways and adjoining rooms.
- T-Mouldings come with U-track which is nailed to the subfloor in the gap. The T-Moulding then clicks into the U-track to subtly cover the gap.

**Stairnosing**

- Embelton Aqua-Tuf and Resilience stairnosings are an excellent way to deliver a smart finish to your stairs.
- When installing the stairnosings, the exposed lip at the other end of the nosing marries up to the groove profile of the adjoining board, so it is imperative that your floorboards are laid the right way if starting from an opposite wall.

How to Install Aqua-Tuf Stairnosing:

**Step 1:** For the boards that will go on the stair tread, remove the underlay from the back of the board so that it is the same height as the stairnosing.

**Step 2:** Along the long edge of the board, the ‘groove’ profile is the side that butts up against the stairnosing, with the lip of the stairnosing comfortably fitting above the profile. Glue the board that will act as the stair tread on the level, the appropriate distance from the edge so that the stair nose can butt up firmly against the long edge.

**Step 3:** Fit the stair nosing neatly over the groove side of the long edge of the board to make sure it fits. Once it does, glue the stairnosing into place.
Drop Lock Profile

Embelton Hybrid Floors come with an end drop lock profile for easy installation. Simply line up the butt end of the board with the next board, and drop the board into place until it locks in place. A mallet and tapping block may be required to ensure that the end is fully engaged and locks firmly into place.

Resilience and Esperance comes with a very fine micro bevel, which almost appears as a square edge. With all square edged products, lipping on the end joins may occur as a result of the installation process. When installing Resilience and Esperance, care needs to be taken when engaging the drop lock to minimise this effect. If not, surface distortion may be apparent due to a variation in the angle of the light source. When viewed at certain angles this effect may be more pronounced. The effect is very minimal and is not covered under this warranty.

During installation, boards that demonstrate lipping when not engaged properly the first time should be removed immediately and replaced with a new board. Lipping caused during installation is not covered under this warranty.

Raft Sizes & Expansion Gaps

- While Embelton Hybrid have been proven to be very stable relative to other hard flooring types, they can still expand and contract in extreme environmental conditions.
- As the floor is not fixed (i.e. glued) to the substrate, it must be able to move as a raft when encountering directional pressure, requiring the installation of expansion gaps.
- The bigger the raft size, the greater the floor can move, and the requirement for larger expansion gaps.
- If the raft doesn’t have enough expansion allowance, the boards can move against each other, causing issues such as end peaking.
- In the case of Aqua-Tuf (WPC), expansion should always be cut in doorways, with a matching T-Moulding installed, to cover the gap.

Maximum Raft Size Allowances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Maximum Permitted Raft Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aqua-Tuf</td>
<td>L: 12m x W: 12m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience</td>
<td>L: 15m x W: 30m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esperance</td>
<td>L: 15m x W: 30m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expansion Gap Requirements

Floating Applications

- An 8-10mm expansion gap should be left around the perimeter and internal objects such as kitchen benches.
- As a general rule, the larger the raft size the larger the expansion gap should be.
- Doorways and adjoining rooms are ideal places to install internal T-Mouldings to separate the floor into smaller rafts.
- Door frames and architraves need to be undercut to allow movement of the raft.
- Scotia, beading and skirts will adequately cover the expansion gaps.
- Sealant or caulk cannot be used around the perimeter of the floor. This pins the floor in place and does not allow for expansion and contraction. Short runs around internal cabinetry may be used, provided a foam back rod is inserted into the expansion gap and a fillet of sealant is applied over the top of the rod.

Subfloor Preparation

Ensure that the subfloor is clean, flat, dry, smooth and level before installation.

Floor Levelling

Concrete Slabs

- Subfloor must be within Australian Standards which allow for height differences of +/- 3mm over 1m.
- Grind high spots and fill low spots with a levelling compound to ensure the subfloor is level.
- Embelton recommends Bostik UL-100 levelling compound.
- Carpet staples or glue residue must be removed and subfloor must be clean to ensure proper installation.

Yellowtongue/Chipboard

- Correct any changes in height difference by planing, sanding humps (high spots) or by filling depressions (low spots) with timber filler.

Existing Floorboards

- Height differences of more than 3mm +/- over 3 meters must be levelled.
- Boards will be more stable if laid at a 90 degree angle to the existing floorboards.

Moisture Barriers

If moisture barriers are required to protect the subfloor, Embelton recommends the following:

- Paint on Moisture Barriers - Embelton recommends Bostik Moisture Seal. Correctly applied, this is one of the most effective moisture barriers.
- Builders Plastic - Correctly installed, thick black builders plastic with a minimum 200 micron thickness is suitable for installation over concrete slabs to act as an effective moisture barrier.

Best Practice Tips

- Pre-select boards that blend best with matching scotia, skirts and trims.
- Stagger boards to ensure a more favourable overall appearance of the floor. Boards in adjacent rows should be staggered at mid point when the boards are equal length. When installing boards of random length, ensure that the staggered length is at least 200mm. End boards must be greater than 300mm in length to prevent gapping.
- Check door and door frame clearances to ensure that doors will move freely without contacting the floor surface.
- Although floating floors can be installed in any direction, as a rule, they are usually installed perpendicular to a window. Installing the floor parallel to the longest wall tends to make a room appear larger.
- You will get better results by laying two or three rows in advance to get an eye pleasing distribution of the plank.
**Step by Step Installation Instructions**

1. First plank, first row. Place a spacer 8-10mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with spacers of 8-10mm.

2. Second plank, first row. Lay the short end of the next floorboard up against the edge of the first one, then drop down into place, ensuring it locks firmly into place. Place a spacer against the wall.

3. At the end of the first row, place a spacer 8-10mm to the wall and cut the length of the last plank to fit.

4. For a clean cut, the top surface should face down when you use a jigsaw, circular handsaw or guillotine, and up when you use a handsaw or a crosscut saw.

5. Second row, first plank. Minimum length 300mm. Place a spacer against the wall.

6. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel shall not be less than 200mm.

7. Place the floorboard at an angle against the floorboard in the previous row, press forward and fold down at the same time. A rubber mallet and tapping block may be necessary.

8. Second plank, second row. Place the short end of the floorboard at an angle against the previously installed floorboard. Fold down. Complete the second row.

9. After 2-3 rows, adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers 8-10mm.

10. If the wall is uneven, the floorboards must be adapted to its contours. Mark the floorboards with the contour of the wall. Do not forget to leave a 8-10mm space to the wall.

11. To remove the first row, lift the floorboard a few centimetres and tap along the joint. Cut the floorboards as required.

12. Reinstall the first row from left to right. Press the boards against the edges of the floorboards that are already in position, with the first strip.

13. Last row. Minimum width 30mm. Remember, the space to the wall is 8-10mm. Tip: Place a spacer before measuring. Cut the panels lengthwise and install.

**Disassembling**

Your floor can easily be disassembled. This enables replacement during installation and also after made installation, when it is needed or desired to replace on or several planks, or even the whole floor. Release by angling up.
About this Warranty

The benefits to the consumer under the warranty are in addition to other rights and remedies of the consumer under a law in relation to the goods or services to which the warranty relates. Our goods come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law. You are entitled to a replacement or refund for a major failure and for compensation for any other reasonably foreseeable loss or damage. You are also entitled to have the goods repaired or replaced if the goods fail to be of acceptable quality and the failure does not amount to major failure. All expenses related to warranty claims are the responsibility of the consumer making the warranty claim. The original purchaser of Embelton flooring in Australia is offered the following warranties, effective for purchases made after 1st June 2010. Please note this product is warranted for indoor use only, and is not transferable in the event of a property sale. Embelton Floating Floors installed in rental properties are covered under Embelton’s 10 year commercial warranty, not this 25 year residential warranty.

25 Year Limited Surface Warranty

The manufacturer warrants to the original purchaser that the top surface layer will not wear through under normal conditions of wear and tear, for a period of twenty-five years from the date of purchase. Gloss reduction and scratches caused by regular traffic are not considered wear through and are not covered by this warranty. The warranty becomes effective on the date of purchase.

25 Year Structural Integrity Warranty

The manufacturer warrants its product in its original manufactured condition to be free from defects in material and workmanship, including dimension, lamination and assembly (may not apply to special or non-standard grade specifications, as advised at the time of sale).

Notes

Embelton Floating Floors must be laid indoors in suitable areas. While they are tough and durable, they are not appropriate for outdoors or humid spaces such as bathrooms and saunas. As such, this warranty does not cover floors that are laid in unsuitable areas. As a natural product, Embelton Floating Floors will continue to expand and contract during normal seasonal temperatures and humidity changes. The product, when properly installed, may experience slight expansion, contraction and separation between boards, which is normal. If minor separation does occur, it is not covered by this warranty. Expansion gaps should be installed as required. Minor Checking is a natural occurrence in many timbers. If less than 10% of boards are affected by checking, this is regarded as a natural process and will not be covered in this warranty.

Product thought to be defective by the installer should be returned to your dealer for inspection and possible replacement prior to installation. Installation implies acceptance of the product. If a flooring product from Embelton should fail to meet the Terms of the Warranty, G P Embelton & Co. Pty Ltd and the manufacturer, at its option, will either supply a replacement product from the current range, parts to repair or replace the defective product, or refund the purchase price of the defective product prorated over the remaining life of this limited warranty. A minimum of 10% of the total installed surface area must be affected for the warranty to apply. This warranty is exclusive. It covers the repair or replacement of defective materials only. It does not cover mouldings or accessories. It does not cover labour costs. Installation of the replacement products will be at the buyer’s expense. The above remedy is the customer’s only and an exclusive remedy for claims under this warranty.

With all square edged products, lipping on the end joins may occur as a result of the installation process. When installing Resilience and Esperance, care needs to be taken when engaging the locking system join to minimise this effect. If not, surface distortion may be apparent due to a variation in the angle of the light source. When viewed at certain angles this effect may be more pronounced.

Boards that demonstrate lipping when not engaged properly the first time, should be removed immediately and replaced with a new board. Lipping caused during installation is not covered under this warranty.

Conditions

The manufacturer will honour claims under this warranty, only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The covered person must provide proof of date of purchase, original purchase price and that he/she is the original purchaser. He/she must also demonstrate the floor is at the original installation site.
- At all times between purchase and installation, the flooring must be properly stored according to installation instructions.
- This warranty applies to interior residential construction only. The flooring must be installed in accordance with the installation instructions. Relative humidity in the area of use must be maintained within a range of 30% to 70%. Room temperature of 15-30°C is recommended.
- The use of evaporative cooling will dramatically increase the moisture content of the flooring and can cause growth of the boards, resulting in possible squeaking or damage.
- Embelton Floating Floors must be maintained in accordance with the maintenance guide.
- The warranty will be made void if unusual man-made or natural disasters, including leaking or broken plumbing, fire, flood, earthquake or standing water occur during or after installation.
- Heavy objects and furniture such as bookcases, billiard tables or kitchen units should not be situated on any floating installation. This can lead to the floor failing to respond to contraction and expansion, which can cause squeaking and possible failure.

Warranty Exclusions

The manufacturer’s warranty does not cover the following:

- Indentations, scratches, damage caused by negligence or accident, water ingress, insects, animals, high-heeled or spiked shoes, urine and high traffic areas.
- Failure to follow the manufacturer’s written floor installation instructions, including protecting the floor from moisture from the subfloor and other sources.
- Exposure to excessive heat, sunlight or improper humidity in the environment.
- Improper maintenance, insufficient protection or misuse.
- Where subfloor heating is used above 27 degrees.
- Improper alteration to the original manufactured product. Alterations or repairs to the manufacturer’s original product will void any and all warranties.
- Changes in colour or appearance due to full or partial exposure to sunlight, weather, ageing or refinishing.
- Failure due to structural changes in the subfloor, settling of the building or an uneven subfloor that has not been adequately levelled (+/- 3mm over 1m).
- Damage/growth/moisture gain from evaporative cooling.
- Failure to maintain adequate ventilation. Most commonly, this may result if areas of floor are closed off for extended periods of time causing excessive heat leading to moisture loss and damage to the floor.

Warranty Disclaimers

The foregoing is in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, except as covered by Common Law. The manufacturer shall not be liable for loss of use or any other incidental or consequential costs, expenses or damages incurred by the original purchaser. This warranty gives you specific rights and you may also have other rights that may vary from State to State. It should be read in conjunction with G P Embelton & Co. Pty Ltd’s General Terms and Conditions of Sale (available upon request).
Maintenance Guide

Your Embelton Floating Floor is designed with low maintenance in mind. Follow these simple steps to achieve many years of enjoyment from your floor.

Preventative Care Tips

• In areas of excessive traffic and wear, please make use of runners or area rugs.
• Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
• Use protective mats at all exterior entrances. Do not use rubber-based furniture or mats as the rubber may leach into the floor.
• Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage your floor.
• Keep animal nails trimmed to prevent excess scratching.
• Protect your floor by using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Try not to slide or roll across the floor.
• Maintain relative humidity levels between 30% and 70% and temperature between 15-30°C.
• All doorways and adjoining rooms should have expansion joints.
• Maintain relative humidity levels between 30% and 70% and temperature between 15-30°C.
• Sweep or vacuum as often as necessary to remove any loose dirt or grit before it can scratch the floor.
• Use a slightly damp mop only – avoid excessive amounts of water. Steam mops must not be used.
• Oil soaps, wax, liquid or other household products may affect your coating and should be avoided.
• Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight through the use of blinds or curtains.

Maintenance Guide

Does my Hybrid floor have any particular requirements?

If your floor is installed as a floated system, it should be noted that rooms within the home need to be able to move as one. This is the reason that many floating floors have expansion gaps between rooms to reduce any pressure issues. It should also be noted that very heavy objects, such as bilard tables, bookcases, large fridges or kitchen units can cause issues for floating floors and should be discussed with the retailer. All floated floors need to be able to move freely and must not be fixed down.

Why does my Hybrid floor look slightly different to what I imagined?

Photos in magazines or the internet will not give you a realistic representation of full species colour or feature. Even a sample flooring board provides just a representation of the colour and features in that species. It might be noted that many species and types of flooring have a great spread of natural variance. Within a single species the colours and colour variation can be quite pronounced and can differ markedly from one floor to another.

How will my Hybrid floor wear?

Hardness indicates a species resistance to indentation. Damage to floors may occur due to continual movement of furniture, heavy foot traffic and in particular “stiletto-heel” type pressure. Embelton flooring ensures improved resistance to indentation and abrasion. Minor surface scratching in the coating can be repaired with Gilly Stephenson oil by the home owner on a regular basis.

How do I care for my Hybrid floor?

A simple brush or a light vacuum keeps floors looking great. If household pets or children have dragged mud through the house a micro fibre mop and a light mist of water removes the grime with ease. Many household chemicals and cleaners will damage floors and must not be used. There are many aspects that effect how often the floor requires cleaning and these include the degree of grit present (particularly from children and pets), type of exterior and interior matting used, the level of foot traffic, type of footwear and general conditions of the area outside the house, such as abundant gravel or sand. Spills should be mopped up when they occur and any leaks attended to immediately. Steam mops should never be used on your floor.

Consumer FAQ’s

Does my Hybrid floor have any particular requirements?

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Does the construction of my home impact the installation of my Hybrid floor?

Hybrid floors are commonly laid in homes with either a concrete slab or a joist construction with ground beneath. However, the build of your home will determine what preparation that needs to occur prior to installation of the floor. With joist construction, protection from the surrounding air causing it to swell or increase in size. This can cause squeaking or cracking due to the tightness of the boards. Conversely, during drier times when humidity is low, your flooring will shrink, reducing in size. Your flooring, if not placed in a permanently controlled environment, will always move in response to changing environmental conditions. Ultimately consumers should understand that as a natural product, your flooring will continue to respond to its environment throughout its life.

Does the climate and environment of my home affect my Hybrid floor?

It is important to have an understanding of the relationship between your flooring, humidity in the surrounding air and the dimensional changes that occur as a result of changes in humidity. During weather conditions of consistently high humidity, your flooring will absorb moisture from the surrounding air causing it to swell or increase in size. This can cause squeaking or cracking due to the tightness of the boards. Conversely, during drier times when humidity is low, your flooring will shrink, reducing in size. Your flooring, if not placed in a permanently controlled environment, will always move in response to changing environmental conditions. Ultimately consumers should understand that as a natural product, your flooring will continue to respond to its environment throughout its life.

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Does home have suitable ventilation and drainage?

Airflow under and/or around a floor is essential. Normally brick homes have suitable ventilation slots around the brickwork, but it’s important to ensure these have not been filled in over the years or become overgrown by garden beds. Drainage is also essential to ensure water is not trapped around or under your home. Failure to ensure this can increase the moisture content in your floor and potentially cause issues.

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What impact will large expansive windows or skylights that face the sun for extended periods have on my Hybrid floor?

If a floor is constantly in direct sunlight this may cause unwanted fading, shrinkage and even some damage due to surface drying. All efforts should be made to protect floors from harsh direct sunlight using window coverings, window tinting or other shade methods such as pergolas or verandas.

Maintenance Guide

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NEW SOUTH WALES
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