

Installation Guidelines

Acclimatisation of Material

Please make sure at least **48 hours prior and during installation**, LooseLay is removed from packaging (tiles and planks may be stacked, but must be rested flat) and allow to condition in the room where the installation is to take place. Room temperature should be kept between **18°-29°C**.

Solvents

Never use degreasing or other propriety cleaning products that contain solvents to remove residues of adhesive or to clean a subfloor prior to the installation of LooseLay tiles and planks. Should there be any solvent contamination in the subfloor, then the floor must be sealed or all traces of residual solvent removed.

Arranging the Tiles

Karndean LooseLay planks and tiles do not need direction or pattern matching and can be arranged at random.

Installation Procedure

LooseLay is installed to AS 1884: 2012 whereby the subfloor must be flat, level, smooth, dry etc, but need not be porous and is installed using three optional methods to suit customer needs and the degree of foot/wheeled traffic expected as follows:

- 1. Glue free:** LooseLay tiles and planks can be installed without adhesive in light commercial areas and rooms of domestic dwellings, including kitchen, bathroom, laundry etc, provided the subfloor has been prepared to AS 1884:2012 and double-sided tape or a pressure sensitive adhesive has been used to secure the first row of tiles and planks. If preferred, any double sided tape used can be removed after the job has been cut in
- 2. Grid stick:** In areas of high traffic you must use Karndean Hi-Tack PS pressure sensitive adhesive or similar around the perimeter at a distance of 3M from the edge before installation, plus a grid system of 10cm wide bands every 3M in both directions. Note that PS adhesive does not require the subfloor to be porous.
- 3. Peel up:** In extreme traffic areas such as entrances, commercial high footfall traffic paths, high frequency wheeled traffic use or high temperature areas (e.g. north facing panoramic windows) use 100% full spread Karndean Hi-Tack PS pressure sensitive adhesive or similar. Note easy 'peel-up' and tile/plank replacement, identical to the carpet tile concept, is unimpaired.

Clean-up:

Adhesive: when wet use a damp cloth and when dry use Karndean Basic Stripper.

Tools: use water when adhesive is still wet or use mineral turps if the adhesive has dried.

Underfloor Heating / Underfloor Services

Karndean Designflooring is suitable over underfloor heating systems, insulated so that its surface temperature does not rise above 26°C (79°F).

The system must be switched off 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after the installation, then temperature gradually increased (typically **2°C/hr per day**) to desired warmth. Mesh/wire systems must be bedded into a base coat of reinforced fiber smoothing compound of 4mm to 6mm thickness to cover the wires or mesh by consulting your underlayment supplier. Glue Free, Grid Stick or Peel Up installation methods are then used in the normal way.

LooseLay allows easy access to under floor services if installed over access panels, provided the resultant subfloor complies with the smoothness and plainness values stipulated in AS 1884: 2012.

Subfloor Preparation

Generally follow AS 1884: 2012 *Floor coverings – Resilient sheet & tiles – Installation practices*. Ensure that subfloors are permanently dry, smooth, level, clean and constructed to provide a firm foundation; but need not be porous. Take particular note of AS 1884: 2012 Section 5.7 *Loose Lay Installation – plank and tile* and Appendix 'A' *Testing for moisture content in subfloors*.

Existing Textiles and Carpet

Remove existing textile floor covering and all traces of adhesive residues if applicable. The subfloor should be treated as per the subfloor exposed.

Damp Subfloors

LooseLay must only be laid on sub-floors where the moisture level complies with Appendix 'A' testing as per AS 1884: 2012 using the In-Situ Probe Test (or where mandatory the Surface Mounted Insulated Hood Test). If the slab moisture is above these levels, then either a Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) or 'Moisture Fix' by Protect Crete or similar must be applied.

Concrete Floors

Test for suitable surface quality such as plainness (4mm in 2000mm) smoothness (1mm in 150mm) soundness etc in accordance with AS 1884:2012 and if necessary apply a compatible self-leveling smoothing compound, skim coat or patch repair as required.

Mosaic/Terrazzo/Ceramics/Quarry Tiles

Ensure surface is firm, dry and free of wax, oil, dust and any loose existing tiles. Apply Ardex P82 Primer or similar as a bonding agent and a compatible self-leveling smoothing compound to a minimum of 3mm ensuring that all grout lines are filled with no show-through.

Metal and Painted Floors

Same as for Concrete Floors, plus remove any loose paint or other loose finishes.

Thermoplastic/Vinyl/Cork/Linoleum

Generally LooseLay can be installed directly over these types of surface, providing it is firm, smooth, dry and free of wax, oil, dust and any existing loose tiles fixed in place or replaced.

Timber Floors

Generally speaking floorboards, T&G boards, woodblock, parquetry, particleboard, plywood, hardboard, cement sheeting are all suitable, providing that their surface quality for plainness, smoothness and soundness is in accordance with AS 1884: 2012. Loose boards must be firmly fixed making the subfloor solid with little flexibility. If in doubt consult your timber supplier.

Use of Adhesives

Karndean Hi-Tack PS Adhesive

NB: Only use when applicable – see Installation Procedure. Karndean Hi-Tack PS (or similar adhesive) must be water based non-solvent, low-odour, VOC compliant, non-toxic, non-flammable pressure sensitive adhesive suitable for indoor use.

Use a brush or roller or notched spreader to apply Hi-Tack PS evenly over the area required and allow **drying to a clear film** before tiles and planks are laid into it – never install LooseLay into wet PS adhesive.

High Spillage Wet Areas

For areas where frequent water pooling on the surface of the tiles or planks is likely to occur, then Karndean 8000 2-part polyurethane waterproof/high temperature adhesive should be used, which when mixed creates a strong chemical bond. Strictly follow the use instruction label on each pack, because this type of adhesive does not possess wet or dry tack properties, but instead relies on thickness of adhesive film.

Wet Areas of New Build Domestic Homes:

Karndean 8000 2-part adhesive may be mandatory for **new build** domestic kitchens, bathrooms, laundries etc where local councils require evidence that the whole floor area, including any joins, are totally waterproof before a certificate of occupancy is issued. In these cases request Karndean's 'Producer Statement' which satisfies the 'Performance Requirements' under AUS/NZL Building Codes.

Acoustic Requirement

Residential High-Rise Apartment Buildings, Health and Aged Care, Music Rooms

LooseLay has a unique construction which acts as a built-in acoustic underlay and complies with ISO 140-6 Acoustic Impact Noise Reduction, ISO 140-8 Impact Sound Insulation and ASTM E492-9 Impact Sound Transmission, being suitable for use on upper floors of AUS/NZL residential high-rise apartment buildings and health and aged care facilities without the need for a separate acoustic underlay.

Basic Maintenance

- Karndean Designflooring has a protective PU surface called K Guard +, which helps to protect the floor and eliminates the need to strip and seal after installation.
- To keep clean sweep all loose debris, then damp mop with Karndean Routine Cleaner (or pH neutral cleaner) as directed.
- Over time high traffic may cause dulling to occur. To refresh your floor to its initial appearance strip and seal using Karndean Basic Stripper and Karndean Refresh sealer (or similar products for vinyl floors).

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