

HYBRID FLOORS - INSTALLATION

Installation Instructions

PREPARATION

Godfrey Hirst Hybrid Floors Installation Guidelines should be reviewed by installers prior to commencement of installation. These instructions are intended to assist in achieving optimum installation. Any variation to these instructions may affect the Godfrey Hirst warranties. Should you have any queries in relation to the below recommendations, please contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.

Godfrey Hirst hybrid floors must be installed using a floating floor system. Should it be intended to direct stick the product, please refer to your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative or the Godfrey Hirst website www.godfreyhirst.com for possible alternative products.

Warning - Floating floor installation systems should NOT be used if loads are likely to exceed 200kg/object area or if the load is greater than 30kg/cm² – only direct stick products should be considered. Heavy objects and furniture such as large bookcases, full sized billiard tables or kitchen units should not be placed on any floating installation.

PRE-LAYING CHECKS

It is the installer's responsibility to verify that the product and accessories supplied are the correct product, colour, pattern and quantity. Prior to installation, each plank should be carefully checked in good natural light for any obvious visual defects. Never install defective product. If the product is incorrect or has any visual defects or damage, contact the retailer or Godfrey Hirst representative. Installation equals acceptance of quality and Godfrey Hirst will not be responsible for any visible defects after the floor has been cut and/or installed.

SITE TESTING AND CONDITIONING

Concrete sub floors must be tested in accordance with AS/NZ1884:2013 for moisture using the relative humidity in-situ probe test. RH levels can be up to 95%.

Generally Godfrey Hirst hybrid floors do not need to be acclimatised. However if boxes are exposed to extreme temperatures within the 12 hours prior to installation please refer to the Extreme Temperatures note at the end of these instructions.

SUB FLOOR PREPARATION

Sub floors must be level, smooth, dry and free of any surface irregularities including dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint or other materials or roughness.

Concrete floors must be cured, completely dry, with a surface free of irregularities. When a straight edge 2 metres long is placed at rest at 2 points 2 metres apart, no part of the surface shall be more than 3mm below the length of the straight edge. Depressions and cracks must be filled using a suitable (taking into account the traffic loads) approved levelling compound in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All irregularities must be levelled.

Existing timber, plywood and particleboard sub floors, must be checked for any loose boards/panels or excessive deflection or movement. If loose boards are found or movement is excessive, the sub floor should

be re-affixed and damaged boards replaced, then if required, sanded to a level, smooth and dust free surface.

The floor can be installed over most existing floorcovering (e.g. ceramic tiles, linoleum, PVC etc.) provided the floor is flat, dry and in the case of ceramics in a residential installation, grout line tolerances are no more than 3mm wide and 3mm deep and tile surfaces are level adjacent to each other. Otherwise grout joints should be filled to the level of the tiles with a suitable leveller. Carpet, carpet underlay and/or existing floating floors is not a suitable sub floor.

Godfrey Hirst hybrid floors should never be installed over any electrical radiant heating system - the speed of sudden temperature changes having the potential to negatively affect the floor. Godfrey Hirst hybrid floor may, subject to following the instructions in the Hydronic Radiant Underfloor Heating note at the end of these instructions, be installed over a hydronic underfloor radiant heating systems.

WET AREAS

Although Godfrey Hirst hybrid floors are waterproof, it should not be used as a moisture barrier, and should not be installed in areas that have a continual risk of excessive moisture/flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas. If being installed in a wet area (e.g. bathroom, laundry etc.) please refer to the Wet Area Installation note at the end of these instructions.

PERIMETER/EXPANSION GAPS

A standard perimeter expansion gap of not less than 10mm must be maintained against all fixed vertical surfaces (e.g. walls, cabinets, sliding doors, island benches, plumbing fixtures etc.). Godfrey Hirst hybrid floors are extremely stable and can be installed in individual rooms up to 30m long and 15m wide. In large, complex or multi room installations, internal expansion joints at doorways are recommended. A trim or scotia can be used to cover the expansion gap, ensuring the floor is not pinned to the substrate or vertical surfaces. Silicone or caulking compound is not recommended.

Note: For installations that include the floor passing through multiple pinch-points, for example doorways and transitional areas from smaller passageways to larger rooms, consideration must be given to providing internal expansion allowances at these points.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- Spacers
- Saw/Guillotine/Utility Knife
- Soft, White No 2 Rubber Mallet
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Tape Measure

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As a floating floor, the floor should not be adhered, nailed or pinned in any way to the sub floor or structure. Additional foam or cork underlays should never be used.

1. Prepare the sub floor in accordance with instructions over page.

Warning - Asbestos – Prior to any take-up or removal of floorcoverings, adhesives or underlay, you should be certain these do not contain asbestos. If it is known or suspected the previous flooring, adhesive or underlay contains asbestos, you should avoid creating dust and the previous flooring and/or components should only be removed by an appropriately licenced asbestos removal contractor.

2. Plan the direction of the area to be installed to maximise the visual appearance once installed. The direction of the tile/plank grain should be confirmed and the installation should be balanced from the centre of the area to minimise waste.
3. Measure the room and estimate the number of rows required. If the last row is not at least 50mm wide, the first row should be cut so that the first and last rows are similar in width.
4. To minimise shade variation, mix and install product from several different packs alternately. After laying a small quantity of product, view from a distance that allows you to clearly see the overall effect. If there is any doubt cease installation immediately and contact your retailer or Godfrey Hirst Floors representative.
5. From the left corner of the room put the first plank in place using spacer blocks against the walls to maintain the minimum 10mm expansion gap so both the end and side seam grooves are facing outwards. Planks are to be installed from left to right.
6. Install the second plank in the first row by laying the short-end tongue onto the previously installed plank short-end groove. Lock the planks together using a soft, white No. 2 rubber mallet to vertically engage the lock. A couple of small taps, rather than one sharp strike are recommended to avoid damaging the locking system. Care must be taken to properly line up the end join and NEVER force the join while out of alignment, otherwise this could result in permanent damage to the end groove.
7. Continue in this manner for the rest of the first row. The last plank in the row should be cut to length while maintaining the appropriate expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or fixed vertical surfaces.
8. Cut a plank that is at least 150mm shorter than the first plank to start the second row or use the cut off from the previous row, keeping in mind the length requirements above. Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row at a low angle to the installed plank. Then firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure toward the installed plank. The planks should fit snugly together and lay flat maintaining the appropriate expansion gap along the perimeter of the room or fixed vertical surfaces.

9. To install the remaining planks in the second row, first align the long edge tongue into the groove of the previous row at an angle. Slide the plank to the left until it meets the previously installed plank. Firmly lower the plank while maintaining a slight pressure towards the installed piece. The planks should fit snugly together and lay flat. Engage the short edge join as in the above.

10. Work across the length of the room installing planks in the second row.

It is critical to keep these first two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check often for squareness and straightness while installing the floor as failure to do so can result in gapping.

11. Continue installing, being certain to maintain a random pattern repeat, assisted by offsetting end joins by at least 150mm. Maintain the minimum 10mm expansion gap against all fixed vertical surfaces.
12. Check to be certain all planks are fully engaged; if slight gapping is noticed or the planks will not lay flat, simply disengage the long/top side join and then carefully slide the short/end join apart. Do not pull up on this join as it will damage the locking mechanism! Reinstall the plank.
13. The last row (possibly the first row) plank width should be no less than 50mm on the long seam. Remember to allow for the appropriate expansion gap to the wall.
14. Holes for pipes: measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20mm larger.
15. Install wall mouldings and door transition mouldings last. Be sure that all mouldings are fastened directly to the wall; do not place any fasteners through, or adhere to, the floating floor. Care must be taken when fitting wall mouldings that they do not push down on the floor. This will affect the floors ability to expand and contract and may lead to product failure.

NOTE: If necessary, to disassemble your Godfrey Hirst hybrid floor, separate the whole row by lifting it up carefully at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If planks do not separate easy, you can slightly lift up the planks (5°) when sliding them apart.

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POST INSTALLATION

If construction works are still underway, the floor should be protected from site debris, dirt, soil, traffic etc. by use of a protective surface (e.g. sheet plastic, hard boards etc.). Please be careful to ensure no condensation occurs and any adhesive tape or protective material does not affect the aesthetics of the finished installation.

EXTREME TEMPERATURES PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Should your Godfrey Hirst hybrid floor be exposed within the 12 hours prior to installation to extreme temperatures (under 5°C or over 50°C) (which may be due to storage in vehicles or transport to site), acclimatisation is required at a room temperature between 18°C to 28°C for a minimum of 24 hours, in unopened packages prior to installation. Ensure individual stacks are no more than 3 packs high and they are spaced at least 200mm apart to allow airflow between stacks. The temperature must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of 48 hours after installation completion. The ambient relative humidity in the installation area should be maintained at 30-60% to prevent condensation forming under the laid flooring.

WET AREA INSTALLATIONS

If your Godfrey Hirst hybrid floor is being installed in a wet area:

1. If a floor waste is installed in the area and it is intended to grade the floor to the waste, the sub-floor must be prepared within the tolerances set out in the sub floor Preparation notes as Godfrey Hirst hybrid floors, due to its rigidity, cannot be manipulated to provide any fall to waste or accommodate variations in flatness of the floor greater than those tolerances. Otherwise an alternative product should be sought.
2. Follow the instructions set out in the Installation Procedure.
3. Separate/isolate the wet area from the balance of the floor/area with T-mould or similar at the doorway or other adjoining areas.
4. Seal the perimeter of the floor using a bathroom grade silicone to prevent moisture seeping under the floor.

Do not allow water to pool on the floor for any long periods of time. Wet towels or bath mats should never be left on the floor to dry.

HYDRONIC RADIANT UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Before installing over newly constructed hydronic underfloor radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity for a minimum of 7 days to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. The moisture content of the screed prior to installation must be less than 1.5% (CM method). Shut down the floor heating at least 48 hours prior to installation. Make sure that the temperature in the room is at least 15°C during installation. It is recommended that the radiant heat be applied in a gradual manner (no more than 2°C per day) after installing the Godfrey Hirst hybrid floor. After installation, ensure the surface temperature of the sub floor never exceeds 27°C. Refer to the hydronic underfloor radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.