

# Installation and Maintenance Guide – Self-Adhesive Planks

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Read all instructions fully before proceeding.

- Senso Self-Adhesive planks/tiles are only suitable for indoor residential use.
  - Senso Self-Adhesive planks/tiles **cannot** be used outdoors or in cabins, caravans or vehicle garages.
  - Check for any visual defects or damage before and during installation, return any damaged product to place of purchase. Gerflor will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.
  - Senso Self-Adhesive planks/tiles **cannot** be used on walls or furniture.
  - Subfloors (the surface you put the planks/tiles on) must be perfectly dry, smooth, level, sound, clean and dust free. Please ensure you sweep and/or vacuum all subfloors to remove dust and debris before starting and during your installation.
  - Subfloors **must** be primed prior to planks/tiles installation to facilitate maximum bonding strength.
  - Senso Self-Adhesive planks/tiles **cannot** be laid directly onto Particle board, chipboard, strand board, MDF and yellow, red and blue tongue subfloors, as these are all treated timbers. All Vinyl can and does react after being installed directly onto these types of subfloors. If the subfloor is in this situation, we recommend installing "Masonite underlay" or "IBS Hardboard" in a dry area or "Vinyl and Cork Cement Sheet" or "Tile, Slate and Vinyl Cement Sheet" in a wet area – As per Australian and New Zealand Standards.
  - Any timber subfloor that has had a chemical, oils, varnish or other additives in or on it then it will need to be covered as above.
  - Senso Self-Adhesive planks/tiles **cannot** be installed over existing vinyl, cork, rubber, linoleum, floating floors, textile flooring, including carpet or any type of foam underlay – the installation will fail.
  - Senso self-Adhesive planks/tiles are water resistant and suitable for use in wet areas. It **cannot** be used in a shower base or indoor pools.
  - Installation temperature should be between 15 and 28°C, ideally at a room temperature of 22°C.
  - Protect your floor from direct sunlight, excessive heat, and temperature variation by using curtains, blinds and temperature controls. Temperatures should be maintained between 15 and 28°C.
  - You, the installer, are responsible if the flooring is installed with obvious defects or on an unsuitable or poorly prepared subfloor.
- Installation should comply with Australian Standard AS1884-2012 and New Zealand Standard NZS/AS 1884:2013 for floor covering – Resilient sheet and tiles – Installation Practices. Installation will require an assessment of site and building conditions and appropriate judgement by the installer. If you are unsure about any aspect of the installation, please contact Gerflor customer service.**

**Gerflor's Self-Adhesive planks/ tiles are comfortable underfoot, durable, and easy to maintain. Designed for quick and easy do-it-yourself installation in indoor domestic flooring applications, these products are suitable for both wet and dry areas. (with suitable underlay)**

## MATERIAL INSPECTION

Check each pack to ensure that batch numbers are the same. Inspect the product and do not cut, fit or install any material that has visible defects. Gerflor will not be responsible for material installed with obvious defects.

## BEFORE YOU START

Before starting, planks must be removed from their packaging and laid flat for 24 hours at a normal room temperature between 15 and 28°C.

Suitable subfloors include concrete, timber subfloor (with appropriate underlayment), and ceramic tiles (with appropriate self-levelling compound).

For best adhesion, all surfaces **must** be primed. We recommend using a diluted water based solution of Dunlop or Cemix floor primer or similar as per below.

## SITE CONDITIONS

The ambient temperature must be between 15 and 28°C. These temperatures must be maintained 24 hours before, during and at least 24 hours after the installation is complete. The boxes of planks must be stored flat in these conditions for at least 24 hours prior to installation. The planks must not be laid if the temperature of the subfloor is less than 10°C.

## TOOLS AND PRODUCTS REQUIRED

- Floor primer such as:
  - Bondcrete:
    - 4pt. water 1pt. primer
  - Dunlop Primer & Additive:
    - 2pt. water 1pt. primer
  - Cemix Tile Bond Latex:
    - 2pt. water 1pt. primer
- Roller or broom to apply primer
- Tape measure
- Chalk line
- A straight edge (e.g. metal ruler)
- Sharp utility knife (non-retracting blade)
- Broom
- Pencil
- Ideally a 3-5kg floor roller or hand roller/rolling pin and body weight (the glue is pressure sensitive, it adheres better with pressure).

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloors should be flat, hard, dry (no rising damp), clean, smooth and dust-free. The flatness of the floor must be within ≤ 4 mm over 2 metres. The floor must have no unevenness above 1 mm every 20 cm. Any unevenness greater than 1 mm in depth should be rectified using a patching or levelling compound.

## CONCRETE FLOORS

Concrete should be constructed using good building practices and have an intact vapour barrier installed. Concrete should be flat and level to a minimum deviation of 4mm over a 2m length at any point. If repair is required use a suitable levelling compound. Any holes or deviations should be filled with a suitable patching compound. Any lumps or old adhesives should be removed.

Concrete should be dry to a minimum of 75% using an in-situ moisture test AST F2170, as specified in Australian Standard, 1884-2012. If the dampness exceeds 75%, a waterproof system is suggested before installation begins.

## TIMBER FLOORS

All timber subfloors should be overlaid with a purpose made wood flooring underlay. "Masonite underlay" or "IBS Hardboard" in a dry area and "Vinyl and Cork cement sheet" or "Tile, Slate and Vinyl cement sheet" in a wet area. Prior to this the wooden subfloor should be solid and flat with no nails protruding. Cupped or warped boards should be sanded flat. Wooden floors should be flat and level to a deviation of no greater than 4mm in a length of 2m at any point. Wooden floors should be sanded clean and any excessive deviations repaired with a suitable patching compound, before installation of underlayment.

## TILED FLOORS

All tiled surfaces will need some preparation. Fill and smoothen the joints with a suitable self-levelling compound. Ensure surfaces are smooth, dust free and have been primed before installing Self-Adhesive planks.

## EXISTING FLOORING

Ideally, any existing flooring should be removed. A tiled floor should be levelled with a levelling compound to remove any irregularities or grout marks.

## INSTALLATION IN AREAS OF HIGH HEAT OR DIRECT SUNLIGHT

Gerflor strongly recommends that all precautions are taken to avoid the flooring being exposed to prolonged periods of direct sunlight. As required under Aus and NZ Standards the flooring should be protected with the use of blinds or curtains.

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Senso Self-Adhesive planks can be installed on heated slabs provided the following precautions are taken:

- The heating must be switched on for at least 48 hours and then turned off again for at least 48 hours prior to installation. This is to remove any residual moisture created when the heating system was installed.
- The heating should remain off during installation and for at least 72 hours after installation completion.
- The heating should be turned on again and increased at a maximum of 2°C

per day from ambient temperature to a maximum of 28°C.  
· At no time should the maximum of 28°C be exceeded.

## INSTALLATION

Once the floor has been primed, allow primer to dry for 24 hours and after a final vacuum to remove any dust, you are ready to start. Installation temperature should be between 15 and 28°C, ideally 20°C.

Determine the laying direction (the planks should preferably run in the same direction as the light entering the room) Planks/tiles should be drawn from three boxes to avoid shade variation. Divide the room into 4 sections by drawing 2 perpendicular lines across the floor and use these lines as your guide to ensure you are laying the planks/tiles perfectly square. Position the first row of planks/tiles along the centre line. Once you reach the end ensure the cut piece will be longer than 300mm, if not adjust your starting position along centre line. Make sure the last row of planks is the same width as the first row of planks. Measure the side of the room perpendicular to the laying direction, then divide the measurement by the width of a plank. Round up to the next whole number. If the number is even, start laying with one whole plank either side of the centre line. If the number is uneven, start laying with one plank straddling the centre line.

This method ensures the widths of the first and last rows are optimised and equal. To find the exact size of the final plank in the row position a full plank/tile against the skirting board and over the last plank/tile. It is recommended that when laying the flooring, you start from the middle of the room and complete each section one at a time. For best results lay in a staggered pattern. Remove the protective paper and position the planks/tiles.

The planks/tiles in the subsequent rows must be offset by a half or a third of a length. Use the piece cut off the last plank/tile (if it is more than one third of the length of the plank) to start the next row. Where the planks/tiles meet the wall and other fixed objects a gap of 2mm should be left, except for rooms more than 10m long, where 5mm must be left at the perimeter. Always lay planks/tiles ensuring all marked arrows on the back of planks/tiles are running in the same direction. Check that it is correctly positioned and then apply firm all-over pressure to achieve complete contact. Ensure all cuts are around the edge of the room, with last piece in row always being greater than 300mm in length. Gerflor recommends the flooring be rolled with a 1-5 kg roller or hand roller (rolling pin) to ensure maximum bond strength.

Warning: The backing paper on this product is slippery, once removed, dispose of it immediately.

## CUTTING PLANKS

To cut planks, simply mark the cutting line with a utility knife and snap in a downward motion.

To fit edge planks that need to be cut, keeping the backing paper on, lay the plank to be cut exactly over the last full plank; place another full plank against the wall and mark the cutting line where the planks overlap. Score, snap downwards

and remove backing paper to fit plank into position. Always place the cut edge to the wall.

## SHAPED CUTS

To fit around doorframes, pipes etc., just make a cardboard template as a guide and use this to draw an outline onto the plank or tile. Cut to shape and check that it fits before peeling the backing paper.

## FINISHING

When you have finished laying, go over the floor once again to check that all planks are firmly stuck down.  
Do not wash the floor for 48 hours.

## MAINTENANCE

For everyday cleaning use a vacuum cleaner or broom. For general cleaning, we recommend a damp mop using a mild neutral detergent such as Versadet or Long Life vinyl floor cleaner or similar. Never use abrasive pads or cleaners, strong alkaline detergents, ammonia, chlorine detergents or undiluted bleaches. Do not use acetone or chlorinated solvents (E.g. trichloroethylene). Never use waxes or varnish coating. Always wipe spills away immediately with a damp cloth or sponge. Use a non-rubber backed mat in the doorways and entrances to inhibit any excess dirt, grit etc.

Protect the flooring with MDF or Masonite boards when moving furniture or heavy objects. Ensure the proper use of floor protector pads under the legs of furniture etc, to limit any scratching. Be aware that bitumen and rubber can permanently mark your floor, leaving a yellowish stain. This includes rubber used in rubber-backed mats, rubber wheels on trolleys, rubber feet on stools and other furniture, rubber soles on low cost shoes or slippers. Rubber used on wheelchairs and the like is medical grade rubber, so can be used.

Protect planks from heat sources and possible blasts of heat.

## REPLACING PLANKS

Starting from the outside in, cut the plank diagonally from corner to corner. Gently warm the plank using a hairdryer and then using a blunt knife simply peel away. Clean sub-floor, reprime and install replacement plank.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**The joints between the planks may separate – this is part of natural ageing and does not need to be repaired.**

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All accessories available at Bunnings.