

DIY Flooring Guide

Installing your own flooring is a cost-effective, practical way to transform a room in your home. At Flooring Xtra, we've made it easy for you to order your flooring, underlay and installation accessories all online via our click and collect service. All you need are the measurements of the room you're looking to update and we take you through the process step-by-step. We have a great range of durable laminate and hybrid click together planks as well as quality underlay and the special materials you need to complete the job. We provide you with the all-important easy to follow instruction sheets too. This guide is your starting place. From here, browse our DIY ranges online and for each range, always read and follow the manufacturers installation instructions.



What you'll need:

TOOLS

- Jigsaw
- Pencil
- Hammer
- Tape measure
- Sharp utility knife
- Drop saw or hand saw
- Bench saw or circular saw
- Oscillating multi-tool (for undercutting door frames)
- Level
- Self-levelling compound
- Safety goggles, gloves and mask

FROM FLOORINGXTRA.CO.NZ

- Flooring
- Underlay
- Microfibre mop (for initial cleaning)
- Waterproofing materials (for waterproof flooring)
- Incizo, end profiles and scotia (for expansion and finishing)
- Stair nosing (if including stairs)
- Installation kit

MEASURE UP

Measure your area to find out how much flooring you'll need and add 10% for wastage. For example, if your floor is 5m x 4m that's 20m². Allowing 10% for waste comes to 22m². We have a handy online calculator [here](#).

CHOOSE YOUR PRODUCT

Laminate Planks

Scratch resistant, water resistant, wear resistant, family and pet friendly.

Hybrid Planks

100% waterproof, scratch resistant, family and pet friendly.

PREPARE SUBFLOOR

Click-together flooring can be installed over cork, vinyl, wood, tiles, or concrete – if level. They cannot be installed over carpet. Remove any existing flooring if required. When removing carpet make sure you remove any strips of carpet tack, glue or nails. If you're removing tiles, make sure to scrape away all tile cement / adhesive. Carefully vacuum the entire surface.

CREATE AN EXPANSION GAP

A 10-12mm (for Clix laminate) and 10mm (for Titan hybrid) gap around the entire perimeter of the floor is needed, to allow for the natural expansion of the floor. There are a number of ways to lay your floor to accommodate this:

- Option 1: Leave skirting boards on, lay flooring with 10mm gap away from skirting, and use some colour-matched scotia to cover the gap between the plank and the skirting board.
- Option 2: Remove the skirting and lay your flooring creating a gap between the plank and the wall. The skirting is then fixed back into place neatly over the new floor.

ACCLIMATIZE

Let your planks acclimatize for 48 hours in the unopened packaging at normal room temperature between 18-25 degrees.

REMOVING SKIRTING

Be careful when removing the skirting if you are re-using them. If you're removing the skirting boards, use a utility knife to cut a line along the top edge to prevent wallpaper or paint from getting damaged. Use a flat wide paint scraper with a pry bar to slip behind skirting and ease them off and chop the nails.

CUT ARCHITRAVES

Cut any architraves to height so that flooring can slip underneath. Use an off cut of underlay and a piece of flooring to check your height. Cut it with a multi-tool using a wood blade.

CHECK SUBFLOOR IS LEVEL

Uneven floors can lead to movement and noise. So make sure your sub floor or surface is flat. Any unevenness greater than 2mm over 1 metre must be smoothed out. The same applies to any unevenness of more than 1mm over a length of 20cm. For Hybrid add: grout lines wider than 3mm and deeper than 2mm should be filled with a feather finish.

Look for any hollow areas. Use a 1 metre straight edge to check the sub floor level doesn't deviate +/- 2mm over 1 lineal metre in any direction.

CHECK ROOM IS PARALLEL

Measure the width of each end of the room, making sure it is parallel. If it isn't you'll need to make adjustments to your first row of boards to compensate.

EXPANSION JOINT

Some multi-room or very large rooms will need expansion joints. This allows for the natural expansion of the floor. You'll need an expansion joint between rooms, or in large rooms wider than 13 metres for laminate and no more than 15 metres for Titan hybrid.

TRIMS & PROFILES

If you're transitioning onto existing flooring like tiles, carpet, or onto a door sill, you'll need to use an Incizo profile or end profile, there are a wide range of profiles available from Flooring Xtra.