

Installation and Maintenance Guide – Senso Dryback Planks

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Read all instructions fully before proceeding.

- Senso Dryback planks/tiles are only suitable for indoor residential use.
- Senso Dryback planks/tiles **cannot** be used outdoors or in vehicle garages.
- Senso Dryback planks/tiles **can** be used in caravans or cabins.
- Senso Dryback can be used for a floor and wall application.
- 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.
- Senso Dryback planks/tiles **cannot** be laid directly onto Particle board, chipboard, strand board, MDF and yellow, red and blue tongue subfloors, as these are all types of 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 subfloor that has had chemicals, oils, varnish or other additives in or on it, will need to be covered as above.
- Senso Dryback 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 Dryback planks/tiles are water resistant and suitable for use in bathrooms. It **cannot** be used in a shower base.
- Check for any visual defects or damage before and during installation, and return any damaged product to place of purchase. Gerflor will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.
- Installation temperature should be between 15 to 28°C, ideally at a room temperature of 20°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 coverings – 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.

Senso Dryback planks/tiles are a modular flooring solution for permanent installations on floors and walls in domestic applications.

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 or tiles must be removed from their packaging and laid flat for 24 hours at a normal room temperature between 15 to 28°C.

Suitable subfloors include concrete, timber subfloor (with appropriate underlayment), and ceramic tiles (with appropriate self-levelling compound). Check that the subfloor is perfectly dry, smooth, level, sound, clean and dust free. Do not install on asphalt, bituminous surfaces or over existing floor coverings.

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 bonded if the temperature of the subfloor is less than 10°C.

TOOLS AND PRODUCTS REQUIRED

- Tape Measure
- Chalk line
- A straight edge (e.g. metal ruler)
- Sharp utility knife (non-retracting blade)
- Broom
- Pencil
- Dunlop Vinyl Adhesive or Cemix Vinyl Adhesive or similar vinyl flooring adhesive
- Adhesive trowel
- Ideally a 1-5kg floor roller or hand roller/rolling pin and body weight.

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 in 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 Aus and NZ 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 smooth the joints with a suitable self-levelling compound. Ensure surfaces are smooth and dust free before installing Dryback planks/tiles.

EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

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

WALL INSTALLATION

Senso Dryback planks/tiles **can** be installed on plasterboard or rendered walls provided they are clean, smooth, flat and dry. Unpainted walls should be sealed with primer or acrylic paint that must be dry prior to installation. Ensure each plank is well adhered to the surface before continuing.

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. In areas that may be exposed to direct sunlight or high heat from time to time Gerflor recommend that section is installed using a two-part heat and moisture resistant adhesive.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Senso Dryback 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 degrees

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

ADHESIVE

Adhesive for wood or concrete as well as wall surfaces should be a hard-set acrylic type. Spray adhesives, contact adhesives or pressure sensitive adhesives are **not** suitable for Senso Dryback planks/tiles installation. Adhesive should be applied with a trowel and allowed to set prior to the plank placement. Adhesive manufacturer's recommendations should be followed with regards to coverage, set up and working time.

GETTING STARTED

Ensure room temperature is maintained between 15 and 28 degrees before during and after installation. The planks/tiles should be installed in the direction of the traffic flow in your room. It is recommended to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension. Carefully measure the width of the room and mark the centre line, determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row is less than 50mm the width of the first row should be adjusted to allow a larger cut.

INSTALLATION

Planks/tiles should be drawn from three boxes to avoid shade variation. 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. To find the exact size of the final plank/tile in the row, position a full plank/tile against the skirting board and over the last plank/tile.

Score a line on the last plank/tile and snap along the line. Continue this way until you have a least three rows completed. Mark a pencil line along the last row and remove the planks, keeping in the correct order for replacement. Ensure the area is clean and dust free then trowel the adhesive between the lines. Allow adequate time for the adhesive to set and replace the planks/tiles in their original order. Once the planks/tiles are in place roll with a heavy roller or hand roller.

COMPLETION

Do not place heavy furniture on the planks/tiles for at least 72 hours. After 24 hours, the floor can be washed using a neutral detergent ensuring the water is not allowed to pool for an extended period.

MAINTENANCE

For best results apply Versadet or Long Life vinyl floor polish or similar, this will protect your vinyl flooring and help maintain an 'as new' appearance. 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. 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/rust 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 made from medical grade rubber, so can be used.

REPLACING PLANKS/TILES

Starting from the inside out, cut the plank/tile diagonally from the centre to the corner. Gently warm the damaged plank/tile with a hair dryer or heat gun and remove with a small scraper. Scrape the subfloor clean, spread adhesive and re-install a new plank/tile.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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