

Installation and Maintenance Guide – SENSO LOCK PLANKS

Gerflor's Senso Lock planks are designed for quick and easy installation and removal. The product is suitable for indoor residential use. It is water resistant and suitable for use in wet areas such as bathrooms.

IMPORTANT:

- Senso Lock is only suitable for internal use.
- Do not use Senso Lock outdoors, or in vehicle garages. Do not install on walls or furniture.
- Check for any visual defects or damage before and during installations, and return any damaged products to place of purchase. *Gerflor will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.*
- Subfloors must be flat, hard, dry, smooth, clean and dust-free.
- Installation temperature should be between 15 and 28°C, ideally 20°C.
- Protect your floor from sunlight, excessive heat or temperature variation by using curtains, blinds and temperature controls. Temperatures should be maintained between 15 and 28°C. Flooring exposed to temperatures out of this range, excessive temperature variation or near windows or skylights and subject to direct sunlight should be glued down.

Installation should comply with Australian Standard AS1884-2012 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, contact Gerflor customer service, or a flooring installation specialist.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Material Inspection and Storage

Check that all the boxes have the same batch number.

Unpack the products and stack them flat, decorative side up, between 15 and 28°C, ideally 20°C, for 24 hours prior to installation.

Tools and Products

- Ruler
- Utility knife
- Straight edge
- Cut-resistant gloves
- Tape measure

Tools used for installing laminate flooring (e.g. pulling bar, tapping block, spacers, mallet) can be used.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloors should be flat, hard, dry (no rising damp), clean, smooth and dust-free. The flatness of the floor must be within ≤5 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 concealed using a patching or levelling compound. Senso Lock is not for use with soundproofing or insulating underlay.

Concrete floor / poured topping / painted concrete / patched concrete / anhydrite topping: If necessary, use a levelling coat to eliminate any surface irregularities. Grind, remove dust.

Carpeted floor / laminated parquet / floating parquet / textile / PVC flooring on foam / detached, missing or worn PVC tiles/planks / floating parquet: Remove old floor covering and underlay, scrub any remnants until the floor is clean and dry. If necessary, apply a levelling coat to eliminate any remaining irregularities. Grind and remove dust.

Plywood panel subfloor: Stabilize loose boards or panels. To achieve a totally smooth floor, use a fibrous patching compound or install a hardboard underlay over the entire surface.

Wood strip, chipboard or OSB panel subfloor: Must be overlaid with a hardboard underlay installed following the manufacturer's recommendations.

Tongued/grooved panels on the side should be glued and fixed using screws every 15 to 30 cm as appropriate. Use stainless steel (or similar) screws, the length of which is 2.5 times the thickness of the panels themselves. Plug grout with a specific sealant, sand and remove dust.

Tiles: Senso Lock can be installed over tiling laid without mortar (no joints). On tiling with traditional joints, fill the joints with a suitable cementitious patching compound.

Under-floor heating: Installation over an electric underfloor heating system is possible if the floor temperature does not exceed 28°C in any area. However, it is preferable to glue them down. Turn the heating off 24 hours prior to installation.

Restart the heating gradually 48 hours after installation. Installation on radiant underfloor heating systems is permitted provided the planks are glued down.

INSTALLATION

1. Installation is similar to laminate flooring.
2. Begin laying planks from the left hand side of the starting wall to the right. The tongue side of the plank should be facing out to the centre of the room.
3. Remove groove edge of plank facing wall.
4. An expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room between the planks and the wall. (Spacers can be used.) Use expansion gaps of 0.1% of the room dimension (for example 5 mm at each end of a 5 m length).
5. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side at a low angle. Slowly lower the plank down flat until the end joint closes ensuring the planks are perfectly aligned. Install the remaining planks needed to complete the first row. The seams should be kept tight and you will hear a click when locking the planks together. To ensure the lock is fully engaged give each plank up to three light taps along each side and one at the end using a laminate tapping block and hammer. There should be no gap visible between the planks.
6. The last plank in the row will need to be cut. To do so, measure the distance between the wall and the end surface of the last plank. Then deduct the spacing for the expansion gaps. If this plank measurement is less than 300 mm, then the length of the first plank in the row should be cut ensuring that the first and last planks in each row are at least 300 mm long.
7. Senso Lock planks are cut using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge. Score the surface of the plank with the knife and then snap the plank at the score line.
8. Planks are generally laid in a random pattern so the offcut part of the plank can be used to start the second row provided it is longer than 300 mm. Always stagger the end joints from row to row by at least 300 mm.
9. Install the second plank in the second row by carefully inserting the tongue of the end joint into the groove of the previous plank. Carefully work along the plank tapping the plank forward with a plastic mallet until fully locked into place. The plank may lock easier if lifted on a slight angle, approximately 2 cm

off the ground. Continue to complete the second row of planks.

10. Repeat the installation process working from left to right, row by row, ensuring you leave expansion gaps around all walls and vertical objects. Remember to offset all end joints by at least 300 mm.
11. In areas which will be exposed to excessive heat or direct sunlight the flooring should be adhered to the subfloor with the use of a hard set acrylic adhesive.
12. To finish wet rooms (bathrooms, water closets) and prevent seepage under the flooring, a polyurethane sealant should be installed in the expansion gap.
13. Remember to save a few planks in case they are needed for future repairs.

MAINTENANCE

Everyday care

- Use plastic or felt protector pads under the feet of furniture or under other heavy objects.
- Protect planks from heat sources and possible blasts of heat.
- Rubber may leave indelible stains on vinyl flooring. Avoid placing rubber products on the Senso Lock floor.
- The use of mats in doorways will help protect the floor from scratches.

Cleaning

- Use a vacuum cleaner or a damp mop with a regular non-abrasive detergent.
- For grease, pen or felt pen rub lightly with a cloth soaked in white spirit. Rinse thoroughly.
- For tough stains use diluted liquid bleach, white spirit, alcohol or lemon juice.
- For stubborn stains (ink, tomato, mustard, blood, beetroot, mercurochrome) let diluted liquid bleach sit for several minutes, without rubbing. Rinse thoroughly.
- To remove rust clean with a textile rust removal cloth and rinse thoroughly.
- To remove grease, ballpoint and felt tip pen rub lightly with a cloth dipped in white spirit. Rinse thoroughly.
- Do not use acetone or chlorinated solvents (e.g. trichloroethylene).
- Never use waxes or varnish coating.

REPAIR

Make two diagonal cuts (cross) through the tile/plank to be replaced. Remove the pieces of tile/plank. Take a new tile/plank. Remove the tongue (male side) from the short side and the two grooves (female sides) from the other two sides. Apply double-sided adhesive tape to the back of the tile/plank and put back in place, assembling the long side first.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

Produced by Gerflor Australia, October 2015.

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