



ABM solid***FLOOR***®  
Techinal Info

# Installation Guide

This guide will provide you with detailed instructions to ensure a successful installation. Please carefully review the following steps before beginning the process.

## I. BEFORE INSTALLATION

ABM solidFLOOR® Click Collection is a PVC based flooring. To ensure optimal results, follow the guidelines below, in conjunction with the requirements of BS 8203/EN 622.2 for the installation of resilient flooring. Please note that our floor is not suitable for external locations or continuously wet areas. Before commencing the installation, inspect all flooring to ensure that the boxes originate from the same batch and are free from defects. Any complaints related to visibility identifiable defects will not be accepted once one installation process has begun. Please contact us for guidance if you're not sure.

### Expansion Gaps

Maintain a minimum expansion gap of 5 mm around the room's perimeter and any fitted furniture, such as kitchen units and islands. ABM solidFLOOR® may be installed up to 200m straight fit i.e., 20m x 10m or equivalent to. Upon installation it is up to the retailer to Estimator's discretion whether due to localized conditions if an expansion gap or separation is required in doorways. Please contact us for specific advice on the installation before commencing floor fitting. DO NOT seal the expansion gap or skirting boards with silicone or any other gap filling products.

### Acclimatization of Material

ABM solidFLOOR® must be acclimatized for 48 hours prior to installation. Unpack the product and stack it flat in the room where it will be installed. Ensure the material is stored securely and kept clean during acclimatization. The room must be dry and well-ventilated. Do not stack more than 5 cartons high. Do not store tiles and planks on their edges. Do not drop products. Do not double stack pallets. Storing flooring at high temperatures and on uneven surfaces may cause a permanent distortion of the material. Maintain the room temperature between 18°C and 21°C during acclimatization. If the material were stored at temperatures cooler than recommended, extend the acclimatization period to 72 hours. The subfloor temperature should not fall below 10°C during this period.

### Subfloor preparation

Proper subfloor preparation is crucial to achieving an aesthetically pleasing and durable finished floor. The subfloor must be free from irregularities, hard, smooth, clean, dry and defect-free. Failure to meet these requirements may result in floor breakdown over time and an increased risk of failure.

The subfloor level should have a tolerance of 3 mm height variation over a 2m distance in any direction, as per BS 8203/EN622.2.

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Treat the subfloor accordingly before installation. If the subfloor meets the required tolerance and standards, ABM solidFLOOR® can be installed directly on it. However, failure to address any defect before installation may void responsibility for subsequent damage or failure of flooring.

Should the flooring be installed without defects being corrected, no responsibility can be accepted for subsequent damage or failure of the flooring.

## **Moisture in Subfloors**

Before installing any flooring, it is crucial to measure the moisture content of the base subfloor, particularly concrete, using the appropriate standard testing methods:

- Hygrometer Test for this test, ensure that the subfloor's moisture content is less than 75% RH (Relative Humidity).
- Calcium Carbide Test and Calcium Chloride Test these tests are specified; it is essential to contact the smoothing compound manufacturer for guidance.

It is essential that moisture tests be taken on all concrete floors regardless of age or grade level with a minimum of two test for the first 100 square feet every 50. The test should be conducted according to ASTM F1869, Calcium Chloride Moisture Emission Test, and ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity of the Concrete. One test should be conducted for every 50sq. meters of flooring. The test should be conducted around the perimeter of the room, near columns and where moisture may be evident. For the most accurate results, the weight of the calcium chloride dish should be made on the job site at the start and end of each test. The results of F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity shall not exceed 75%RH.

If the test results exceed the limitations, the installation should not proceed until the problem has been corrected. When dealing with underfloor heating, it is recommended to use only the Hygrometer test. For any subfloor showing a moisture value above these limits, a suitable damp-proof membrane/ moisture suppression system must be used. If in doubt, contact your smoothing compound manufacturer.

Please note that it may not be the floor installer's responsibility to conduct the tests. However, it is the floor covering installer's duty to ensure that these tests are performed, and the results are acceptable before proceeding with the floor covering installation. Keep in mind that moisture Hygrometer tests reflect conditions only at the time of the test. These tests should be performed 2 meters away from an external wall and 72 hours after the box of floor plugs has been installed. The flooring contractor cannot be held responsible for the future moisture-related issues that may cause failure.

## **Concrete | Sand Cement Screeds**

Comply with the specific requirements of BS 8204 standard. If you require guidance, contact the smoothing compound manufacturer.

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## **New & Old Concrete Flooring**

Remove all contamination from concrete subfloors, such as laitance, paint, plaster, old adhesive, etc. For concrete subfloors with cracks, consult your subfloor manufacturer for appropriate repair methods before installing the flooring.

If the moisture level exceeds 75% RH, apply the correct moisture suppressant before applying any primer and smoothing compound. Refer to the data sheets of the chosen system for thickness details and seek further assistance from the smoothing compound manufacturer if needed.

## **Power Floated Concrete**

Remove all contamination from concrete subfloors, such as laitance, paint, plaster, old adhesives, etc. For concrete subfloors with cracks, consult your subfloor manufacturer for appropriate repair methods before installing the flooring. If the moisture level exceeds 75% RH, apply the correct moisture suppressant before applying any primer and smoothing compound. Refer to the data sheets of the chosen system for thickness details and seek further assistance from the smoothing compound manufacturer if needed.

## **'Anhydrite' (Calcium Sulphate - Gypsum)**

Identifying anhydrite screeds can be challenging, and they can be mistaken for more traditional products. For testing and guidance, refer to a subfloor manufacturer.

## **Asphalt**

Inspect the asphalt and repair any cracks. A DPN (Damp-Proof Membrane) may be necessary. Seek advice from your subfloor manufacturer for further assistance.

## **Painted Floors**

Mechanically remove all paint down to the original substrate. Treat the subfloor accordingly following the guidance of the chosen subfloor manufacturer:

## **Standard & Undulating Timber Floors**

There should be levelled by using tools such as sanders and planets prior to patch filling. Ensure all flooring is correctly fixed, and damaged sections are replaced. Install flooring grade plywood (minimum 5.5 mm Class 3 exterior plywood) after completing repairs, following the guidelines in BS 8203/ EN622.2, including advice on proper fixings and spacing.

Apply the correct primer and a minimum 3 mm thickness of fiber-reinforced smoothing compound.

For Chipboard/ Particle Board/ Weyroc / MDF / OSB flooring, overlay with flooring grade plywood and fix it using the appropriate fixings as specified in BS 8203/EN622.2. Stagger plywood joints and feather finish or use fiber-reinforced smoothing compound for a seamless surface. Remove any Wood Mosaic Panel, Woodblock, Wood strip, Laminate, click joint flooring products, and underlays before commencing work, Treat the subfloor appropriately.

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## **Metal Floors**

For information on this process, contact your subfloor manufacturer to obtain a specification.

## **All Other Subfloor Types**

For subfloors containing magnesite, lignite, or granwood, please contact your subfloor manufacturer for specific guidance.

## **Asbestos in Flooring & Wall**

Older buildings may have asbestos in their subfloors and walls. Seek advice from asbestos specialists and your chosen manufacturer for subfloor preparation.

## **Areas of Extreme Temperature**

In areas of extreme temperature changes it is advised to leave expansion gaps and as a precautionary measure, blinds or curtains fitted to door to ceiling windows, patio doors will help prevent fading and fast expansion of the ABM solidFLOOR® product.

## **Underfloor Heating / Radiant Heated Floors**

ABM solidFLOOR® may be installed over underfloor heating systems, provided the flooring interface's temperature does not exceed 27°C. Commission the underfloor heating system before starting the installation and refer to BS 8203 / EN622.2 on the underfloor heating supplier for commissioning methods. If needed, seek further guidance from our team.

For wet or electric underfloor heating used with ABM solidFLOOR® product, embed the heating system in no less than 5mm of cement screed. Switch off the heating 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation. Gradually raise the temperature to the normal operating level over a minimum of seven days after installation. Consult the manufacturer to ensure their electrical underfloor heating is compatible with this flooring. Mesh/wire heating systems must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, embedded into a basecoat of appropriately reinforced smoothing compound with a minimum depth of 10mm. The room temperature should be between 18 °C and 21 °C before and during installations, applicable to both concrete and timber subfloors.

## **Underfloor Heating Pipes Set into Concrete**

Ensure the underfloor heating pipes in concrete are free from contamination, and appropriate moisture systems are in place before priming the surface and applying a compatible smoothing compound to a minimum of 3mm.

Important Note: Avoid causing localized "hot spots/thermal block" that may damage our flooring. Consider hot air circulation and be mindful of furniture and rug placement.

ABM solidFLOOR® does not test floor heating systems for suitability and therefore assumes no responsibility for their installation.

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## Underlays

ABM solidFLOOR® can be installed directly to the substrate if prepared to BS 8203 / EN622.2 and following the above instructions. Installing our floors over the underlay will void the warranty, and subsequent complaints will not be accepted.

## 2. INSTALLATION

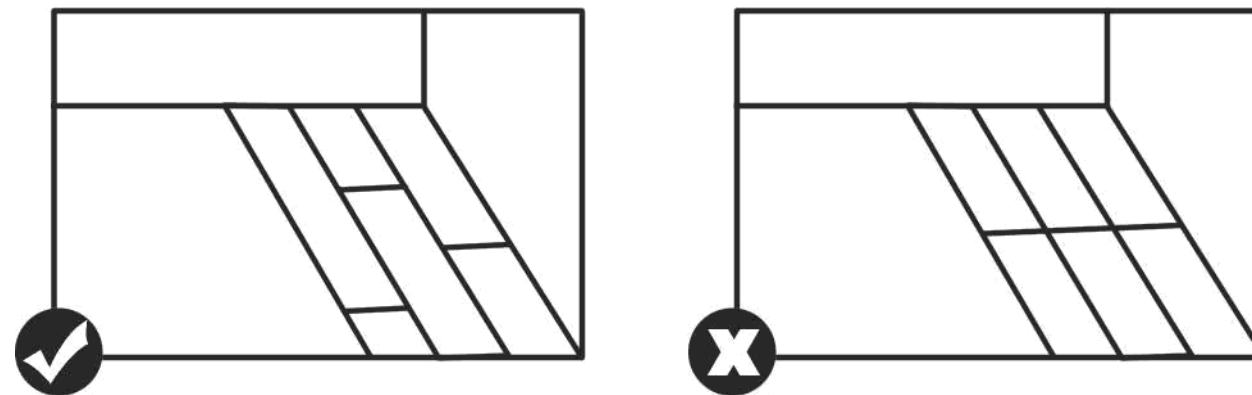
We recommend that you have our flooring installed by a professional installer. Incorrect fitting may affect the warranty of the flooring. However, if you wish to do it yourself, follow the easy-to-follow guide below:

Tools needed: At minimum, you'll require a utility knife, tape measure, a strong straight edge, and a pencil. Professional flooring installers will have all the necessary tools for the job.

Expansion gap: Allow for a 5mm expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the flooring. You may remove the skirting boards and replace them after installation or use Scotia beading to cover the expansion gap.

A) Measure and Determine the Centerline: Measure the room and determine the centerline. Adjust the centerline to achieve a balanced width of plank on each side of the room. Snap a chalk line along the starting wall to mark where the first row of planks will begin, considering the 5mm expansion gap.

B) Staggered Installation: For the best installation for strength and keeping things straight, install planks in a staggered fashion, (see diagram 1). If tiles are being installed, then it's a brick bond fashion. Diagram 2 shows the incorrect way to install. Using the end piece that you have trimmed off the last piece installed, must be larger than 25 cm, begin the next row. If the end piece is smaller than 25 cm, using a new board either cut a piece or use the full board to keep the joints staggered. Shuffle several sets of boards to avoid pattern repeats. Plank ends should be staggered randomly. Keep end-joints at least 250 mm apart. Start each room with planks of various varying lengths. Usually, the leftover piece from one row can be used as the starter piece on the next row of planks.



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C) Click Locking System: Angle each plank into the click locking system along the long ends and then lay them flat to the floor. Click the short end joints together first, angling the tongue into the groove of the next piece and dropping it flat to lock the joint. Then lock the long end joint into the previous row.

D) Skirting Boards: After the installation is complete, you can replace the skirting boards. Leave 1 -2 mm gap to allow expansion and contraction of the flooring. If skirting boards were left on during installation, use Scotia beading to cover the expansion gap. Never use filler to cover the gap.

E) Give your flooring a good clean down and it can be walked on straight away.

## 3. CARE & MAINTENANCE

### Initial Maintenance

Remove dust and grit by vacuuming (without the beater brush) dry mop or brush your floor. Clean the floor using a damp mop using a mild or neutral pH solution to remove any stains. Avoid using multi surface cleaners, bleach, detergents and strong abrasive cleaning agents like organic-solvent, ammonium or alcohol-based detergents.

### Daily Maintenance

Vacuum with a hard floor attachment to remove all surface dirt, dust and grit. Using a Damp mop to remove surface dirt using a micro-fiber mop and neutral pH cleaner. Periodic wet cleaning (damp mop) is necessary to maintain the floor's appearance. Use a floor cleaner and soft towel to remove any stubborn stains and using a damp mop, go over the area to remove any further residue.

### Tips and Recommendations

- Use non-staining door mats on the floor. Make sure to clean it regularly.
- Use non-staining floor protectors/felt pads under heavy furniture and equipment.
- The chairs should have clean, smooth, non-staining floor protectors. Ensure there are no nicks or burrs on the protectors. Felt protectors must be cleaned regularly to ensure there is no grit build-up.
- When moving large heavy furniture and equipment, use strips of plywood or Maronite to roll or slide the furniture or equipment.
- Always follow the instructions on your maintenance products. Using too much cleaning product can lead to greasy residue on top of your floor.
- If you feel your situation is not covered by these guidelines, please contact us for advice before beginning your maintenance procedures.

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## 4. WARRANTY

We, hereby guarantees that in the event of the ABM solidFLOOR® supplied under this Agreement requiring replacement due to "manufacturing defect" or "wear out" from normal foot traffic from date of purchase, the floor will be replaced subject to the conditions below and the claims Procedure being followed correctly.

"Wear out" refers to the complete removal of pattern and/or color of the ABM solidFLOOR® due to normal traffic and regular maintenance.

"Manufacturing Defect" is defined as the failure of the surface of the ABM solidFLOOR® or the locking system, causing the planks to lift away from the floor and/or move apart.

### Warranty Subject to the Following Conditions

- The Claims Procedure and course of action set out by ABM solidFLOOR® have been followed correctly. The ABM solidFLOOR® has been installed fully in accordance with the ABM solidFLOOR® Fitting Guidelines and important notes.
- The appropriate expansion gap, as stated in the ABM solidFLOOR® Fitting Guidelines, has been left around the whole perimeter of the floor area.
- The ABM solidFLOOR® has been installed directly over the subfloor, and no separate underlay has been used.
- The ABM solidFLOOR® has not been glued or taped to the underlay or subfloor in any area.
- The ABM solidFLOOR® has been regularly maintained, fully following the maintenance instructions.
- Precautions have been taken to prevent indentation and joint damage from heap point loading (e.g., furniture), damage caused by moving castor wheel furniture over the floor, and surface scratching caused by dragging heavy or sharp items across the floor.
- The ABM solidFLOOR® has been regularly cleaned and maintained using approved cleaning appliances.

### Warranty Exclusions

- Damage caused to the ABM solidFLOOR® by stains and spillage, burns, scratches, indentations, floods, and any other accidents, including damage from asphalt, battery, acid, bleach, or similar corrosives.
- Improper care due to the use of non-approved maintenance products and appliances.
- Surface scratching and scuffing due to not regularly removing dirt and grit from the floor. Any reduction in surface shine due to normal wear and tear.
- Minor scratching and superficial scuffing marks from general foot traffic.
- Damage caused by sharp and/or heap objects being dropped onto or dragged across the ABM solidFLOOR®.
- Damage caused by Axing items permanently onto or through the ABM solidFLOOR®.
- Variation of color/shading caused by mixing different batches together in the same installation.
- Color fading due to long exposure to direct sunlight.
- Defect with the ABM solidFLOOR® caused by allowing insufficient time for acclimatization to the area of installation.
- Damage caused by excessive damp, alkaline substances, or fluid pressure from the subfloor over which the floor is laid.
- Defects with ABM solidFLOOR® caused by installation in a non – recommended area without a prior assessment and written consent of ABM solidFLOOR®.
- Damage caused to the ABM solidFLOOR® by switching on and heating up to full temperature, any underfloor heating system before sufficient time has elapsed after installation as stipulated in the Fitting Guidelines.
- Damage caused to the ABM solidFLOOR® by the floor temperature exceeding 27°C (whether an underfloor heating system is used or not).
- Any cost incurred due to failure to follow the claims Procedure above and any course of action set out by ABM solidFLOOR®.

**Important note:** This warranty is not transferable. It will terminate if the property changes legal ownership and/or if the flooring is uplifted or moved.





Organization  
&  
High Tech RND

[info@abmcosmos.com](mailto:info@abmcosmos.com)  
[www.abmcosmos.com](http://www.abmcosmos.com)