

Flooring Installation Methods

Floating

Floating Floor Installation does not use nail/ glue to stick down to subfloor at all.

Instead with limited glue use at joint, to make the floorboards to sit upon the foam/EVA/rubber underlay, and underneath is concrete floor.

Floor boards can be pieced together like puzzle.

The advantage of this installation method is easy to operation, eliminating adhesives smell, shortening the time spent on installation, environmental friendly and cost effective. Furthermore, this installation method allows for the floor to move and expand in response to changes in temperature and humidity.



The Floating floor stays in place because four main factors:

- Joinery: floorboards snap (usually for click on or drop lock systems) or glue together (mainly for tongue and groove system).
- Friction: below the floor there is an underlay. Side movements are controlled by friction between boards and underlayment. The material of underlay could be foam/EVA or Rubber.
- Sheer weight: despite the fact that single plank is not very heavy, collectively they can weight several hundreds of kilos across a room.
- Confinement: wooden floor is closed on three or 4 sides by walls. Expansion gaps are required but these walls help to confine the floor.

However, the limitation of floating floor is it can't be sanded; nevertheless, the floorboards can still be polished.

Direct Stick

Different with floating floor, direct stick methods will glued/stuck down directly to the subfloor (concrete floor or plywood). Sanding and re-polish are allowed for these particular installation methods. Different sticks on methods of floorboards to subfloor give customers following choices.

Compare with floating method, direct stuck flooring also shifts a bit less, and it can be used in surfaces that aren't quite as level as what is required with floating floors.

Dual Bond

How it Apply:

- Concrete to be relatively flat (grinding and/or leveling compound).
- Applied moisture barrier (MVB) often used.
- Flooring installed with full bed of adhesive to concrete.
- Supplementary weighting used to hold flooring while adhesive cures.



The advantages of dual bond are that compare with trowel bond, this method did not require as strict as trowel bond to concrete floor leveling and same time, more cost effective.

Furthermore, dual bond installation method is more durable and less susceptible to water damage.

Lastly, dual bond is less likely retaining indentations caused by point loads, such as, chairs, tables and heavy furniture. In another word, pretty hard set, because it holds the flooring firmly in place. Therefore, adhesive allows glue down flooring to absorb a heavy point load, which means furniture and fixtures and far less likely to leave noticeable indentations when removed.

Secret Nailing onto Ply-Wood

How it apply:

- 12-15mm plywood spiked or adhesive fixed to the concrete.
- Flooring glued and secret nailed to substrate.
- Boards from some manufacturers up to 135mm wide can be secret nailed.

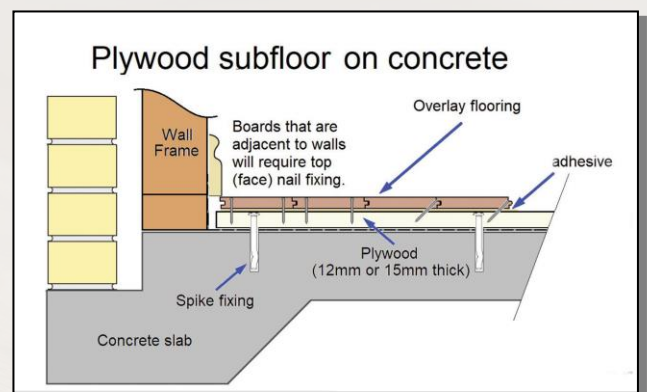


Image Source: ATFA Australian Timber Flooring Association

Trowel Bond

Trowel bond application method and final result is similar to dual bond however it's less cost effective and require a higher standard for floor leveling.

The main keys to success are knowing your product and checking it prior to laying, being confident through assessment that your subfloor is right to accept the floor, and then laying the floor to suit the requirements of the product for the installation environment it is being laid in. Provision for floor movement after installation is a must and not an owner option. Recognised systems and installation methods are those that work and assist to ensure success with each and every floor installation.