

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

A good preparation is essential for a smooth installation. Spirit can be installed on concrete, timber, stone and many other sub-floors which have been suitably prepared.

It is important to maintain a consistent temperature during the life of the product; dramatic changes in temperature can affect the product and should be avoided in order to maintain the serviceability of the product. This is particularly relevant where the temperatures drop below 13°C/55°F. When bringing the room back to normal temperature you must increase the temperature in no more than 5°C/41°F increments over a period of at least 24 hours to ensure the tiles remain serviceable.

Spirit must also be acclimatised for a period of 24-72 hours before and after installation. Failure to do this can cause peaking and gaps and warranties will not apply.

Spirit is not suitable for external installation or in unheated locations such as conservatories.

We recommend that you always use materials from a single batch for each installation as we cannot guarantee a match between batches.

Once the flooring has been installed it needs to be protected if there is further building work to be completed as building related products such as gib dust, paint, heavy furniture, etc., can damage the flooring and warranties will not apply.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING:

Heating components/elements must have minimum of 1/2" separation from the Spirit flooring for approval of installation. Heated sub-floors should be operational for at least 3 weeks prior to installation to drive out existing moisture and calibrate temperature settings which will avoid any sub-floor condensation issue from excessive temp and humidity swings during installation. Maximum operating sub-floor radiant heating temperature should never exceed 40°C for reasons of potential sub-floor breakdown or structural damage.

THE UNDERLYING SURFACE:

Careful sub-floor preparation is vital for an excellent floor appearance and good installation. The sub-floor must be hard, smooth, clean, dry, free from defects and fit for purpose. When needed, scrape off and clean up old adhesives. Make sure the sub-floor is flat and free from fat, grease or chemical substances. A suitable levelling compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including smoothing and levelling compounds and any ancillary products is dependent upon the end use of the completed flooring, and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor.

Any proprietary materials used for floor preparation must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended instructions.

In all cases, the sub-floor must be sufficiently dry. The moisture content of the sub-floor must be less than 2.5%CM (cement screed) or less than 1.5% (anhydrite).

Concrete Floors

As per NZS AS 1884:2013 Appendix A2.1 for concrete sub floors the on slab or in slab test (using a hygrometer) shall be used, if it is determined that moisture content exceeds 75% RH then the concrete floor will either be required to dry until it reaches 75% RH or a moisture barrier to be applied.

Timber Floors

The electrical resistance test shall be done on all timber according to NZS AS 1884:2013 appendix A2.4 and that if a reading is above 16% then the floor shall be deemed to have high moisture content and should not be laid upon.

Laying Spirit over a floor (concrete or timber) which has a high moisture content (75% RH) or higher will cause a build-up of moisture, condensation, mould & mildew and will affect the dimensional stability of the click planks and tiles along with the mould & mildew creating a strong smelling presence, all warranties will be null and void.

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone sub-floors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM). Follow manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface DPM and the use of levelling compound.

The finished appearance of Spirit will be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the sub-floor will show through the finished floor.

Floor laying work should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the sub-floor or conditions.

Serious defects should always be reported immediately to the appropriate authority and corrected before installing the floor or covering.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

- Broom and/or vacuum cleaner
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Set square and ruler
- Utility knife
- Rubber mallet
- Tapping block and hand roller

PREPARATION:

1. Unpack the flooring. The materials should be acclimatised for a period of 24 hours prior to installation.
2. The surface beneath the floor must be sufficiently prepared in advance to guarantee successful fitting of the floor covering. In particular, it must be clean, dry, smooth, firm, level, free from defects and not contaminated with grease, oil or chemicals.
3. Before installation, check all panels in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour or shine.
4. Check that the tongue and groove of the click profile is free from dirt and undamaged.
5. For best results mix at least two packs when fitting to avoid repetitions in the pattern

STEP-BY-STEP FITTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Identity by Belgotex – Spirit is a “floating” floor. The panels should not be glued or fixed to the surface below.

Belgotex recommend a 3mm (Residential Applications), 5mm (Commercial Applications) expansion gap at the perimeter of the room-the skirting boards should either be removed or undercut of the skirting board be made, Should the removal or undercutting of skirting's not be possible then timber/metal moulding trim be used where the gap between the click planking and skirting boards are. Where the floor may be exposed to unusually wide temperature ranges (such as where underfloor heating is used or areas adjacent to a north facing window), then it is necessary to use a 5mm space around the edge, as appropriate.

For surfaces larger than 200m², Belgotex recommends an expansion joint of 5mm is created around the perimeter of the room. The skirting boards should either be removed or undercut of the skirting board be made, should the removal or undercutting of skirting's not be possible then timber/metal moulding trim be used where the gap between the click planking and skirting boards are. We advise that an expansion joint is left between doorways.

Spirit's system panels can be joined in two different ways; either tongue-in-groove or groove-in-tongue. The simplest procedure, however, is groove-in-tongue. It is advisable to begin with the groove side of the plank towards the wall and work from left to right.

1. Measure the room carefully to determine whether the first row of panels needs to be narrowed. If not, the lower groove lip of the first row of panels needs to be removed. Use a utility knife to neatly cut off the lower groove lip.
2. Begin by laying the first row in the corner of the room on your left hand side as you are looking at the wall. Always work from left to right and with the tongue towards yourself (see Fig 1).
3. Lay the first row in a straight line and click the head ends together. Put the short side of the profile into the head end of the previous panel and press the panel downwards. It is recommended to use a hand roller for connecting the head ends so that the joint fits securely. Continue laying the first row in the same way until you get to the last piece (see Fig 2).
4. For the last piece, measure the last plank to ensure a tight fit to the wall. Then cut away the marked piece and fit the end panel in the same way as the previous panels. When cutting the panel with a utility knife, make sure that you cut through the wear layer before breaking the panel (see Fig 3).
5. For an attractive and natural appearance, we advise you to use the piece left over from row 1 as the first piece in the next row, as long as the remaining piece is at least 1/3 of the total plank length. Do this for all subsequent rows.
6. Fit the second row as you did for the first. Start on the left side and slide the groove of the panel under an angle of about 25° over the tongue of the previous row and click the groove into the tongue by laying down the panel while pushing it firmly against the first row (see Fig 4). Along the long edge, it is advisable to use a rubber mallet and tapping block to ensure the click mechanism is firmly locked (see Fig 5).
7. Then fit the second panel by sliding the groove under at an angle of 25° into the tongue of the previous row. Position the left corner of the head end against the previous panel and then drop the short side of the profile into the head end of the previous panel and push downwards using a hand roller. Repeat until you reach the end of the row.
8. To fit the last row of panels you will usually need to narrow them. Do this as follows: Lay a panel on top of the previous row with the groove towards the wall, lay another panel upside down up to the edge of the wall and mark the panel underneath. Cut the panel to size and fit the last row (see Fig 6).
9. Door posts and heating pipes also need to be individually fitted. First cut the panel to the right length. Then place the panel next to the object and draw the correct fitting. Next, cut the panel to size. Door posts can also be sawn to size if necessary to lay the floor beneath them.

FIG 1

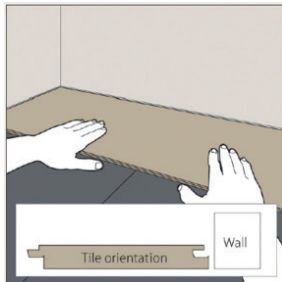


FIG 2

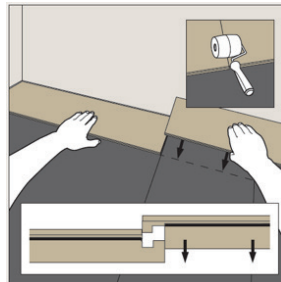


FIG 3

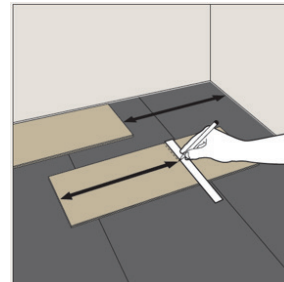


FIG 4

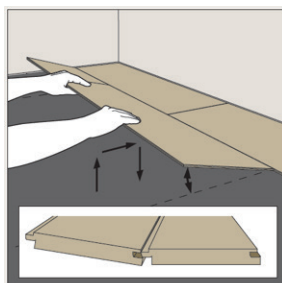


FIG 5

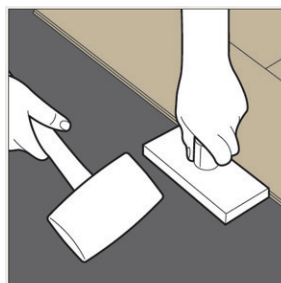


FIG 6



Please note: Where a building consent is required, E3 compliance must be considered. In this instance, all or any sanitary fixtures and appliances are to be sealed with a PE Rod and flexible sealant recommended by Gilt Edge Industries or similar.

INSTALLING TILE AND PLANKS TO WET AREAS:

The building code (E3 Internal moisture) identifies a bathroom, laundry, toilet or a kitchen as a ‘wet area’ where moisture may accumulate or be generated (sanitary fixtures). To prevent structural damage to the subfloor and meet conditions for health and safety, internal areas that accumulate moisture are to be constructed in a way to prevent moisture build up and fungal growth. Finished surfaces must be impervious, maintain the integrity of the system, and use materials and finishes suitable for wet areas.

- Two key areas that affect floor coverings are water splash or leaked water. These are referred to in E3 as:
 - ▶ Containing accidental water overflow (flood, leak).
 - ▶ Water Splash (e.g. outside area of a shower or bath)
- Any sanitary fitting in a room has the potential of water overflow or create splash back. To comply with the E3 2.1, containing accidental water overflow may be achieved by using impervious floor coverings which are continuous and coved or joints sealed where they meet the edges/wall.
- Adhesive systems used in wet areas must be able to provide assurance when applied correctly that timber substrates will not be damaged by any moisture or water that may seep through joints or at the edges of the area/room.
- These adhesives have been typically of polyurethane or epoxy type in nature, however with advances in adhesive technology there may be other alternatives recommended by adhesive suppliers.
- The adhesive should be an approved fit for purpose system that is compatible with the floor covering. If installers are not familiar with the adhesive system specified, then they should contact the supplier for further information. This may involve training if the system requires it for warranty purposes.
- Adhesive systems used in a residential kitchen and laundry should be able to sustain an accidental overflow situation.
- Where loose-lay planks or tiles with no impervious joining system are installed into a kitchen and laundry area over a timber board underlayment or structural sheet: these are referred to in E3 as:
 - ▶ The surface should be first sealed with an approved coating that would make the board surface impervious to any water penetration or accidental overflow situation.
- For future reference and warranties, the identity of the manufacturer for any adhesive system used should be recorded in the customer file or included in the quotation to the customer.

Edge Sealing in Wet Area

Sealing the tile/plank floor walls/upstand joints involves applying a thin bead of a suitable type and colour/clear silicone then smoothing off with a profiled tool.

Fig 1



Setting the bead width

Fig 2



Finished transparent bead

Fig 3



Silicone to the shower/
floor junction

Fig 4



After fitted any excess silicone
that squeezes up is removed

If any of these guidelines are not followed, a warranty claim may not be accepted.