



GLOBAL ALLIANCE — T R A D I N G —

Maintenance Guide

GAT floating floors require little maintenance and always greatly benefit from regular care and protection. In doing so, the life of the floor finish and floor are greatly enhanced.

Runners and Rugs

Most common instances that result in scratches to finished surfaces of floating floors are sand or grit that can be brought into the house with footwear. These small particles act like sandpaper resulting in scratches in the floor. Mats placed both outside and inside external doors provide a simple and effective means of significantly reducing grit from entering your house. In high wear areas, runners and rugs can be effective and can also add to the decor of the house.

Blinds and Curtains

Direct intense sunlight can contribute to gaping and possible cupping of the boards. It will also cause the colour of both boards and finish to change with time. Filtered sunlight and heat through sheer curtains or blinds provides an effective means of slowing the colour change process and is also effective in controlling gaps size and possible cupping.

Felt pads

Additionally rugs with rubber backing should never be used as these may tend to stain the coatings. It should be ensured that adequate furniture protection felt pads are attached to the feet of tables, chairs and furniture such as chairs should be lifted on slid across the floor.

Scratch cover products

GAT floating floors are coated with a strong UV aluminium oxide pre-finished coating. The sliding or movement of unprotected furniture or result of grit or sharp objects breaking through the layers of clear protective coating can expose the layer of aluminium oxide which may result in white scratches appearing. This hardness layer reflects light and appears white. These can be covered by using scratch cover products and bees wax based products, preventing the light from reflexing from the scratches.

Ventilation and climate control

Air conditioning, heating systems, bush fires and drought conditions cause a change to the environment with floating floors also being influenced by these conditions. Contraction and gaps may appear. The relative humidity is a measure of how dry the air is and the lower the value the drier the air. A reduction in bamboo and timber flooring moisture content is accompanied by shrinkage. There are a few simple things that can assist.

Bowls of water, some water left in the sinks, wet washing on a clothes will all add moisture into the air. Similarly the humidity generally increases during the evening so ventilation overnight is also

beneficial. Consider the time of the year you are laying your floor as the climatic environment may be extreme and differ to what conditions your house will be for most of the year.

If your house is locked up over Christmas or hot months for extended periods, please ensure there are some coverings on the windows and that the house is ventilated during this time. Oven like conditions can be created when houses are closed up during this period and your floor won't appreciate it.

Cleaning

Establishing a regular cleaning program will greatly assist in keeping floors in pristine condition. Spills should be mopped up when they occur and any leaks must be attended to immediately. Failure to attend to leaking pipes or water entering from outside your house can result in severe problems with your floor. Scuff marks or stubborn stains may be removed with light rubbing using a wood floor cleaner. As some floor cleaners can attack certain types of coating, use where possible the cleaning regime specified by coating experts - alternatively always test rub on isolated area of the floor to verify compatibility of the cleaner used to the coating. Never use steam mops or abrasive cleaners, steel wool, scouring powder, wax or polish on your floor.

For regular cleaning of domestic floors an antistatic mop provides an effective means of collecting dust and grit. If a vacuum cleaner is used then the condition of the brushes should be regularly checked. If they have worn thin, contact of the metal head on the floor can result in scratching. Steam mops are not recommended as they can cause damage to the coating. Your floors can also become slippery when wet. Wipe any excess moisture off the floor immediately after cleaning using a dry mop or clean towel. For best performance and appearance, immediately wipe up spills, foreign substances or water from wet feet.

Regular maintenance

Damp mopping provides an effective deep clean. On a monthly basis floors can also benefit from damp mopping. Providing the mop is only damp and finish is in good condition, mopping carried out correctly will not affect either the finish or the timber. After wetting the mop it should be wrung out until it is moist and the floor can be mopped in this condition. Using clean water, a final mopping with a mop wrung out till it is dry may be used to further remove excess moisture on the boards. Periodically the protective pads on furniture legs should also be checked to ensure that they are clean of grit or in need of replacement.

Removing stains

GAT floating floors offer a strong coating that is quite stain resistant. Stains are easier to remove when fresh. To assist in the removal of drinks, wine, food, ink, coffee, adhesive or urine, use a spray bottle of diluted methylated spirits to apply to the area and remove with a cloth. Use cold water to assist with the removal of blood.

Global Alliance Trading ensures after reading these simple tips, that you will enjoy your beautiful floor for many years to come.

Installation Guide

Prior to commencing installation of GAT floating floors it is important to take a note of the following items.

Acclimatisation

Please leave product on site for at least 3 days to allow it to acclimatise to the atmospheric conditions of your home and surrounding area.

Subfloor preparation

A great installation of floating floors comes from having a levelled subfloor. Check the subfloor with a long straight edge and fill low lying areas with self-levelling. The subfloor should not be more than 3mm out of straightness over 3 metres.

Underlay with moisture barrier

Roll out your underlay, making sure the overlap moisture barrier flap is visible. Cut the roll with a stainless-steel knife and start to roll out next row making sure this row is on top of the preceding rows moisture barrier flap. Tape the joint with duct tape or sticky tape on every row.

Expansion Gap

An expansion gap of 10mm must be left around the whole perimeter of the installation. This is to allow the floor to expand and contract during different seasons. The installation, if large, should be compartmentalised into individual rooms that are separated with an expansion joint accessory.

Rooms greater than 6m x 6m should have expansion joints installed. If this is not practical, a larger expansion gap of 2mm for every metre of flooring installed in each direction should be left.

For example, room with dimensions of 8m x 10m would require $8 \times 2\text{mm} = 16\text{mm}$ gap at each end of the 8m section and $10 \times 2\text{mm} = 20\text{mm}$ gap at each end of the 10m section. To achieve this extra gap undercut the gyprock around the perimeter of the room, and use skirting boards and or scotia to cover the expansion gap.

IMPORTANT: For reasons such as visual appearance and for structural integrity of the installation, do not install end joints closer than 600mm from the end joints of the previous row. All planks at the start of each row should be no shorter than 400mm.

Installation steps

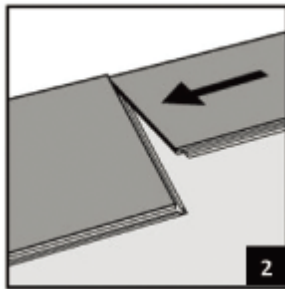
First plank, first row. Place a 10mm wedge to the left of the plank against the wall. Place 10mm wedges every 500mm along the length of the first row. These will keep your expansion joint spacing correct and should be removed at the end of the job.

Diagram 1



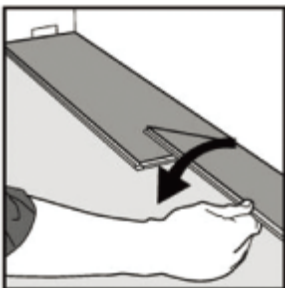
Second plank, first row. Place this plank tight to the short end of the first one.

Diagram 2



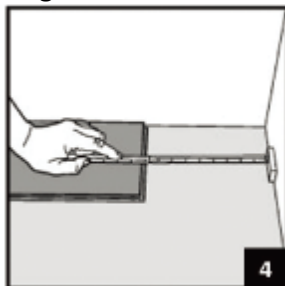
Fold down with a single action movement.

Diagram 3



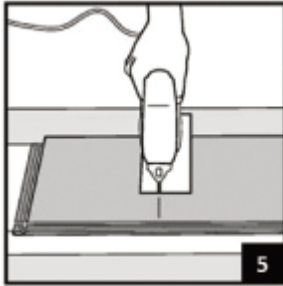
At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 10mm to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.

Diagram 4



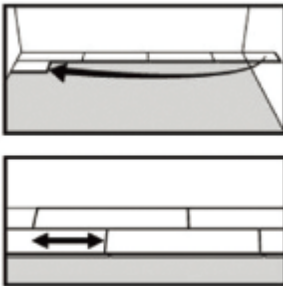
If cutting with a jig saw, the laminate surface should be turned down. If cutting with a hand saw, the laminate surface should be face up.

Diagram 5



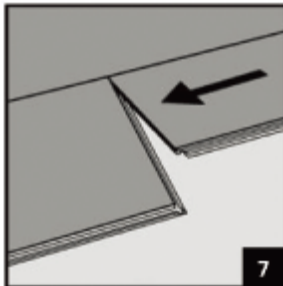
Second row, first plank minimum length of 500mm. Leave an expansion gap of 10mm against the wall. Generally, the minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 300mm.

Diagram 6



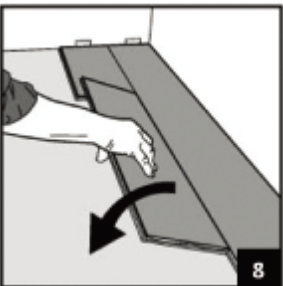
Install the second plank of the second row.

Diagram 7



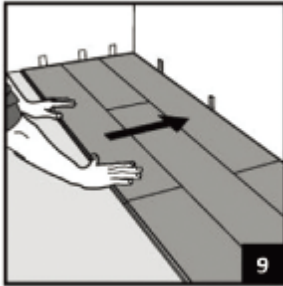
Place the panel tight to the short end of the previous panel and fold down in a single action movement.

Diagram 8



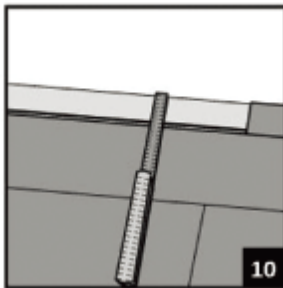
After 2-3 rows, re-position the floor to adjust the distance to the front wall to ensure an expansion gap of 10mm.

Diagram 9



Last row. Minimum width must be at least 50mm. Remember to leave an expansion gap of 10mm.

Diagram 10



*Tip: After cutting the final row panels lengthwise, glue the short ends if necessary.