

## Installation Instruction, Cleaning & Maintenance Guideline

### Prior To Installation

#### Visual inspection

Please ensure the product is inspected and checked for damage, defect or variation prior to installation. Check that the colours correspond to those ordered, the quantities are correct and there is no visible damage to the boxes. Check the EVF panels during installation for any visible defects. Do not install any panels that display any imperfections. We recommend that you always use materials from a single production batch for each installation, as we cannot guarantee a shade or mechanism match between different batches. Be aware that some designs have a natural variation within them. We also recommend that the product is mixed or shuffled between different boxes.

#### Suitability

- EVF can be laid on concrete, cementitious screed, anhydrite (calcium sulphate), timber, plywood, particleboard and ceramic tiles that is reasonably flat and smooth or have been suitably prepared.
- EVF can be used with suitable underfloor heating and cooling systems.
- EVF is only suitable for indoor installation.
- The EVF panels are water resistant. Following the installation instructions carefully makes the floor fit for use in bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms and entrance areas. Mainly for reasons of slip resistance, the panels are not recommended for use in wet areas, e.g. pool areas or surrounds, saunas and rooms with build-in drains like showers.

### Subfloor preparation

#### Irregularities in the subfloor

Good preparation is essential for a trouble-free installation. It is vital for an excellent EVF finish. The appearance of EVF will only be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Although EVF is remarkably suitable for renovation of not perfectly even subfloors, some larger irregularities, steps, sudden level variations in the subfloor may show through the finished floor and must be suitably prepared before installation.

The subfloor must be hard, structurally sound, relatively flat, clean and dry, as well as being free from steps or defects and fit for the purpose intended. When required, scrape off and remove old adhesive residues and loose or de-bonded levelling compound. Make sure the subfloor is free from chemical substances and other contamination.

Unevenness of the subfloor may not be greater than 5mm measured over a length of 2m (in the UK this corresponds to Surface Regularity 2 (SR2)), measured with a suitable straight edge or level. EVF is capable of bridging small holes of up to 30 mm, grout-lines, joints and cracks of up to 10mm in the subfloor. However, avoid installing EVF short end joints over sudden deviations/undulations of 2mm or more. In this instance we recommend to move the end joint connection 300mm away from this deviation.



ECO RESILIENT FLOOR | ENGINEERED TIMBER | TIMBER | DECKING | LAMINATE FLOOR

A suitable plywood/levelling compound should be selected to ensure that no sudden irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including plywood, smoothing/levelling compounds and any ancillary products, is dependent upon the occupational use of the area and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor. All floor preparation materials used must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and in accordance with the national standards for resilient floorcoverings.

**The moisture content of the subfloor**

EVF is moisture resistant, however, best practice should be followed to avoid bacteria and mould growth under the floorcovering:

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone subfloors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM) in accordance with the national standards for the installation of resilient floorcoverings. Where necessary, follow the manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface applied DPM and the use of levelling compound.

**The moisture content of the subfloor must be in accordance with local or national standards for the installation of resilient floorcoverings. If in doubt seek further advice.**

**Acclimatisation**

EVF does not require acclimatisation prior to installation, in standard rooms and conditions. Unpack the EVF and check all panels in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour. For defects that are visible prior to installation, TFG will never assume responsibility for the uplift & relay costs.

## Installation

1. The EVF planks or tiles can be joined in two different ways, either tongue-in-groove or groove-under-tongue. The simplest procedure, however, is groove-under-tongue, working from left to right along the longest straight wall.
2. The EVF system allows you to choose your own starting position. You can start in the middle of the room/area and work to both sides, or start at the wall and work your way in. In that case you need a combination of groove-under-tongue and tongue in groove installation.
3. Determine the installation direction of the EVF. 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 or fine tooth saw to neatly cut off the lower groove lip.
4. Begin by laying the first row in the corner of the room on your left-hand side as you are looking at the wall. Preferably, always work from left to right and with the tongue towards yourself.
5. 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 nylon or rubber hammer/mallet for connecting the head ends so that the joint fits securely.
6. Use the spacers to fill out any contour of the wall so that the panels do not move, are straight and are 100% installed and locked together correctly.
7. For the end piece of the row, measure the last plank so that the required expansion gap is maintained. Do not lay the panel completely tight to the wall. 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. Large pieces can be snapped off by hand, with small cuts it might be necessary to use pliers (or alternatively a saw).
8. For the second/next row, take a new panel and decide how big the first piece must be (or use one of the left-overs from previous rows). Make sure that the end joint is at least 20 to 30 cm different to the previous row and avoid any "staircase" effect, install at random intervals.
9. Fit the second row as you did for the first: start on the left-hand side and slide the groove of the panel under an angle of about 25° over the tongue of the previous row, clicking the groove into the tongue by laying down the panel while pushing it firmly against the first row. Along the long edge, ensure the click mechanism is firmly locked together. Due to the very close fitting mechanism, there is an intentional tension in the connection. It may be required to knock along the long joint with the rubber or nylon hammer/mallet to correctly engage the joint.
10. Next, 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, push downward. It is recommended to use a rubber hammer/mallet for connecting the head ends so that the joint fits securely.
11. Repeat steps 8 to 10 until all rows are complete, and only the last row needs to be placed.

12. 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.

**NOTE :** EVF is meant to be a floating floor system and must not be restricted in any way, e.g. permanently fixing, fixtures and fittings through the floor covering.

### **Maintaining Your Floor**

Appropriate maintenance procedures will help to preserve the appearance and will extend the life of a EVF floor. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the amount and type of traffic, degree of soiling, the floor colour and type.

#### **Important:**

- Almost all flooring will vary in colour over time when exposed to UV light. Avoid this by using curtains or sunscreens when the sun is very bright.
- Avoid rubber or latex backed mats, furniture feet and the like, as they may leave stains. Also, rubber and latex castors or protection caps under furniture must not be used (we advise castors type 'W' in accordance with EN 12529).
- Protect against scratching from furniture feet by using wide, free-moving, castors, glides, rollers or felt pads. Use furniture caps under heavy items or appliances to prevent indentation.
- Mechanical damage of the floorcovering, caused by heavy overloading or sliding of furniture/items is not covered by the warranty conditions.
- Do not allow cigarettes, matches and other extremely hot items to contact the floor as this causes permanent damage.