

## Installation and Maintenance Guide – Senso Lock Planks

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- . Read all instructions fully before proceeding.
  - . Senso Lock is only suitable for indoor domestic use.
  - . Do not use Senso Lock outdoors or in vehicle garages.
  - . Do not install on walls or furniture.
  - . Senso Lock planks **cannot** be laid directly over Particle board, chipboard, MDF & yellow, red or blue tongue subfloors as these are all types of treated timbers. All Vinyl can & does react after being installed directly onto these types of subfloors. If the subfloor is in this situation, we recommend installing “Masonite underlay” or “IBS Hardboard” in a dry area or “Vinyl & Cork Cement Sheet” in a wet area - as per Aus & NZ standards.
  - . Senso Lock **cannot** be installed over existing vinyl, cork, rubber, linoleum, textile flooring, including carpet or any type of foam underlay.
  - . Check for any visual defects or damage before and during installations, and return any damaged products to place of purchase. Gerflor will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects.
  - . Subfloors must be flat, hard, dry, smooth, clean and dust-free.
  - . Installation temperature should be between 15 and 28°C, ideally 20°C.
  - . Protect your floor from direct sunlight, excessive heat or temperature variation by using curtains, blinds and temperature controls. Temperatures should be maintained between 15 and 28°C. Flooring exposed to temperatures out of this range, excessive temperature variation or near windows or skylights and subject to direct sunlight should be glued down.
- Installation should comply with Australian Standard AS1884-2012 & New Zealand Standard NZS/AS 1884:2013 for Floor coverings – Resilient sheet and tiles – Installation Practices. Installation will require an assessment of site and building conditions and appropriate judgement by the installer. If you are unsure about any aspect of the installation, please contact Gerflor customer service**

Gerflor’s Senso Lock planks are designed for quick and easy installation and Removal. The product is suitable for indoor residential use. It is water resistant and suitable for use in wet areas such as bathrooms.

### MATERIAL INSPECTION

Check each pack to ensure that batch numbers are the same. Inspect the product and do not cut, fit or install any material that has visible defects. Gerflor will not be responsible for material installed with obvious defects

### BEFORE YOU START

Before starting, planks must be removed from their packaging and laid flat for 24 hours at a normal room temperature between 15 to 28°C.

Suitable subfloors include concrete, timber subfloor (with appropriate underlayment), and ceramic tiles (with appropriate self-levelling compound). Check that the subfloor is perfectly dry, smooth, level, sound, and clean and dust free. Do not install on asphalt, bituminous surfaces or over existing floor coverings.

### SITE CONDITIONS

The ambient temperature must be between 15 and 28°C. These temperatures must be maintained 24 hours before, during and at least 24 hours after the installation is complete. The boxes of planks must be stored flat in these conditions for at least 24 hours prior to installation. The planks must not be laid if the temperature of the subfloor is less than 10°C.

### TOOLS AND PRODUCTS REQUIRED

- . Ruler
- . Sharp Utility knife (non-retracting blade)
- . Straight edge
- . Tape measure
- . Tools used for installing laminate flooring (e.g. pulling bar, tapping block, spacers, and mallet) can be used.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloors should be flat, hard, dry (no rising damp), clean, smooth and dust-free. The flatness of the floor must be within ±5 mm in 2 metres. The floor must have no unevenness above 1 mm every 20 cm. Any unevenness greater than 1 mm in depth should be concealed using a patching or levelling compound.

Senso Lock is not for use with soundproofing or insulating underlay.

### CONCRETE FLOORS

Concrete should be constructed using good building practices and have an intact vapour barrier installed. Concrete should be flat and level to a minimum deviation of 4mm over a 2m length at any point. If repair is required use a suitable levelling compound. Any holes or deviations should be filled with a suitable patching compound. Any lumps or old adhesives should be removed. Concrete should be dry to a minimum of 75% using an in-situ moisture test AST F2170, as specified in Aus & NZ Standard, 1884-2012. If the dampness exceeds 75%, a waterproofing system is suggested before installation begins.

### TIMBER FLOORS

All timber subfloors need to be overlaid with a purpose made wood flooring underlay. “Masonite underlay” or “IBS Hardboard” in a dry area and “Vinyl & Cork cement sheet” in a wet area. Prior to this the wooden subfloor should be solid and flat with no nails protruding. Cupped or warped boards should be sanded flat.

Wooden floors should be flat and level to a deviation of no greater than 4mm in a length of 2m at any point. Wooden floors should be sanded clean and any excessive deviations repaired with a suitable patching compound, before installation of underlayment.

## TILED FLOORS

Senso Lock can be installed over tiling laid without mortar (no joints). On tiling with traditional joints, fill the joints with a suitable self-levelling compound.

## INSTALLATION IN AREAS OF HIGH HEAT OR DIRECT SUNLIGHT

Gerflor strongly recommend that all precautions are taken to avoid the flooring being exposed to prolonged periods of direct sunlight. As required under Australian Standards the flooring should be protected with the use of blinds or curtains. In areas that may be exposed to direct sunlight or high heat from time to time Gerflor recommend that a section is installed using a two part heat and moisture resistant adhesive.

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Senso Lock can be installed on heated slabs provided the following precautions taken:

- The heating must be switched on for at least 48 hours and then turned off again for at least 48 hours prior to installation. This is to remove any residual moisture created when the heating system was installed.
- The heating should remain off during installation and for at least 72 hours after installation completion.
- The heating should be turned on again and increased at a maximum of 2 degrees per day from ambient temperature to a maximum of 28°C.
- At no time should the maximum of 28°C be exceeded.

## EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS

Senso Lock **cannot** be installed over existing vinyl, cork, rubber or linoleum, textile flooring, including carpet and any type of underlay must be removed. Existing solid floors including ceramic tiles and terrazzo can be installed over using an appropriate levelling compound prior to plank installation.

## INSTALLATION

1. Installation is similar to laminate flooring.
2. Begin laying planks from the left hand side of the starting wall to the right. The tongue side of the plank should be facing out to the centre of the room.
3. Remove groove edge of plank facing wall.
4. An expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room between the planks and the wall. (Spacers can be used.) Use expansion gaps of 0.1% of the room dimension (for example 5mm at each end of a 5 m length).

5. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side at a low angle. Slowly lower the plank down flat until the end joint closes ensuring the planks are perfectly aligned. Install the remaining planks needed to complete the first row. The seams should be kept tight and you will hear a click when locking the planks together. To ensure the lock is fully engaged give each plank up to three light taps along each side and one at the end using a laminate tapping block and hammer. There should be no gap visible between the planks.

6. The last plank in the row will need to be cut. To do so, measure the distance between the wall and the end surface of the last plank. Then deduct the spacing for the expansion gaps. If this plank measurement is less than 300 mm, then the length of the first plank in the row should be cut ensuring that the first and last planks in each row are at least 300 mm long.

7. Senso Lock planks are cut using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge. Score the surface of the plank with the knife and then snap the plank at the score line.

8. Planks are generally laid in a random pattern so the offcut part of the plank can be used to start the second row provided it is longer than 300 mm, always stagger the end joints from row to row by at least 300 mm.

9. Install the second plank in the second row by carefully inserting the tongue of the end joint into the groove of the previous plank.

Carefully work along the plank tapping the plank forward with a plastic mallet until fully locked into place. The plank may lock easier if lifted on a slight angle, approximately 2 cm off the ground. Continue to complete the second row of planks.

10. Repeat the installation process working from left to right, row by row, ensuring you leave expansion gaps around all walls and vertical objects. Remember to offset all end joints by at least 300 mm.

11. In areas which will be exposed to excessive heat or direct sunlight the flooring should be adhered to the subfloor with the use of a hard set acrylic adhesive.

12. To finish wet rooms (bathrooms, water closets) and prevent seepage under the flooring, a polyurethane sealant should be installed in the expansion gap.

13. Remember to save a few planks in case they are needed for future repairs.

## MAINTENANCE

For everyday cleaning use a vacuum cleaner or broom. For general cleaning

we recommend a damp mop using a mild neutral detergent such as Versadet or Long Life vinyl floor cleaner or similar. For best results apply Versadet or Long Life vinyl floor polish or similar, this will protect your vinyl flooring and help maintain a 'as new' appearance. Never use abrasive pads or cleaner, strong alkaline detergents, ammonia, chlorine detergents or undiluted bleaches. Do not use acetone or chlorinated solvents (E.g. trichloroethylene).

Never use waxes or varnish coating. Always wipe spills away immediately with a damp cloth or sponge. Use a non-rubber backed mat in the doorways and entrances to inhibit any excess dirt, grit etc.

Protect the flooring with MDF or Masonite boards when moving furniture or heavy objects. Ensure the proper use of floor protector pads under the legs of furniture etc, to limit any scratching. Be aware that bitumen and rubber can permanently mark your floor, leaving a yellowish stain. This includes rubber used in rubber-backed mats, rubber wheels on trolleys, rubber feet on stools and other furniture, rubber soles on low cost shoes or slippers. Rubber used on wheelchairs and the like are made from medical grade rubber, so can be used.

Protect planks from heat sources and possible blasts of heat.

## REPAIR

Make two diagonal cuts (cross) through the plank to be replaced. Remove the pieces of tile/plank. Take a new plank. Remove the tongue (male side) from the short side and the two grooves (female sides) from the other two sides. Apply double-sided adhesive tape to the back of the plank and put back in place, assembling the long side first.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The joints between the planks may separate – this is part of natural ageing and does not need to be repaired.

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