

Aurora II Herringbone installation instructions

Professional glue-down installation | Read completely before starting

IMPORTANT

Herringbone requires precise professional setting-out and a correctly prepared substrate. Improper product selection, subfloor preparation, adhesive use or installation may void the warranty. Do not install planks with visible defects.

Product specifications

PRODUCT	Aurora II Herringbone dry-back glue-down LVT	PLANK SIZE	590 × 118 × 2.0 mm
WEAR LAYER	0.3 mm	SURFACE	Embossed authentic wood finish
PACK	38 planks / 2.646 m ²	BOX WEIGHT	Approx. 10.16 kg
WATER RESISTANCE	100% waterproof product	INSTALLATION	Full-spread adhesive; dry-back
WARRANTY	20-year limited heavy residential	COMMERCIAL	5-year limited general commercial

Installer and site responsibility

Aurora II Herringbone should be installed by an experienced resilient-flooring contractor. The installer must assess the intended use, substrate, moisture, temperature, sunlight and expected traffic, and must confirm that the selected levelling, moisture-control and adhesive systems are mutually compatible and suitable for the site.

Site conditions

- Condition the occupied environment to 15-30°C before, during and after installation. Protect planks, adhesive and the working area from direct solar heat, fireplaces and other concentrated heat.
- Acclimatise unopened cartons flat in the installation area for at least 48 hours unless the current adhesive and product data require otherwise.
- Do not wet-clean, expose to rolling loads or place heavy furniture until the adhesive has fully cured - normally at least 48 hours, but the adhesive manufacturer's stated cure time governs.
- Underfloor heating must be embedded beneath the screed, approved by both flooring and adhesive suppliers, thermostatically controlled and limited to 27°C at the screed/floor surface.

Subfloor acceptance criteria

- Clean, smooth, dense, dry, sound and free from dust, paint, grease, oil, curing compounds, laitance and adhesive contamination.
- Mirror-smooth finish with no ridges, cracks or undulations likely to telegraph through the 2.0 mm LVT or disturb the herringbone line.
- Flat to less than 3 mm over a 1.5 m radius. Herringbone alignment benefits from a tighter practical tolerance wherever achievable.
- Minimum concrete pull strength of 20 MPa; 25-28 MPa is preferred for demanding applications. The surface must not powder or flake.
- Moisture not exceeding 3% on a Tramex meter or 12% on a Protimeter, subject to the levelling, moisture-barrier and adhesive manufacturers' requirements. Record dated readings and photographs.
- Apply a compatible two-coat liquid moisture barrier to ground-floor installations where required or recommended. Apply coats in opposing directions and observe all recoat and cure times.
- Existing ceramic tile may be overlaid only when sound, firmly bonded and uncracked, after correct cleaning, priming and smoothing. Obtain system-specific written guidance.

Preparation, tools and adhesive

Use a complete compatible preparation system

Use primers, moisture barriers, repair compounds, smoothing screeds and adhesives approved for the substrate and Aurora II dry-back LVT. Do not mix unrelated manufacturers' preparation products unless written compatibility is confirmed. Supporting-product performance and installation workmanship remain the responsibility of the installer and relevant manufacturer.

Required equipment

Moisture meter	Long straightedge / laser	Chalk line and fine pencil
Mixing drill and clean buckets	Utility knife / guillotine / fine jigsaw	Measuring tape and square
Specified notched trowel	68 kg three-part roller	Small hard hand roller
Cleaning cloths and water	Appropriate PPE	Spare blades and adhesive tools

Adhesive application

- Select an adhesive approved for dry-back LVT, the substrate, traffic level, temperature and underfloor-heating conditions. Follow its data sheet exactly.
- Where specified, use a 1.5 × 1.5 mm V-notched trowel at approximately 4 mm spacing. The adhesive manufacturer's specified trowel and coverage rate take precedence. Replace worn trowels.
- Spread only the area that can be laid and rolled within the adhesive's working time. Observe mixing, pot life, flash-off, open time and cure requirements under actual site conditions.
- Transfer adhesive uniformly to the full back of every plank. Lift test pieces regularly to confirm coverage; change technique or trowel when transfer is inadequate.
- Remove wet adhesive immediately using the manufacturer-approved method. Never leave adhesive ridges or contamination beyond the active laying area.

Herringbone setting-out

Agree the pattern direction, focal point and border treatment with the client before applying adhesive. Herringbone magnifies alignment errors: establish permanent control lines and check them continuously.

1. Measure the room and identify the visual axis - commonly the centre of the main entrance, corridor, longest sightline or primary architectural feature. Do not assume the walls are square.
2. Mark a precise centreline along the selected axis. Establish a perpendicular baseline using a laser or the 3-4-5 method, then verify diagonals.
3. Dry-lay several complete "V" sections without adhesive. Measure the assembled module to determine the exact working-line offsets for the 590 × 118 mm planks.
4. Shift the layout where necessary to avoid small perimeter slivers and awkward cuts at doorways, columns and focal points. Aim for balanced perimeter cuts.
5. Snap additional parallel control lines across the room. Use them to prevent cumulative drift and keep each zigzag centred.
6. Mix planks from several boxes and agree décor variation and blend before permanent laying.

DO NOT EYEBALL THE PATTERN

A small error at the first "V" multiplies across the room. Never rely on walls alone; lay to verified centre, baseline and control lines.

Installing the herringbone pattern

Build the first reference section

1. Select straight, undamaged planks for the starting section. Arrange the first pair at an exact 90° side-to-end relationship to form the initial "V". Confirm orientation before adhesive is spread.
2. Spread a manageable adhesive field around the starting control lines. Respect the required flash-off and working time.
3. Place the first pair exactly on the centreline and baseline. Press each plank fully into the adhesive without sliding it out of alignment.
4. Add alternating left- and right-hand planks to extend the first spine. Keep every end tight to the adjoining long edge without forcing or overlapping.
5. Check the centreline, 90° relationship and distance to parallel control lines after every few planks. Correct movement immediately while the adhesive remains workable.
6. Complete enough of the central spine to create a stable reference, then work outwards in balanced sections. Avoid building too far to one side.

Continue across the room

7. Apply adhesive in small, controlled zones and place planks in sequence, maintaining the agreed pattern and tight, clean joints.
8. Roll each completed section in both directions within the adhesive's stated time using the 68 kg three-part roller. Use a small hard roller where the large roller cannot reach.
9. Lift-check periodically for full adhesive transfer. Re-roll at intervals and roll the entire installation again on completion.
10. Recheck control lines frequently. If the pattern drifts, stop and correct the active section; do not disguise cumulative error with uneven joints or perimeter cuts.
11. At walls and fixed objects, template and cut accurately. Maintain the perimeter clearance required by the adhesive/system design and cover neatly with trims. Do not wedge planks tightly against fixed elements.
12. At doorways and transitions, continue or terminate the pattern according to the approved set-out. Dry-fit complex cuts before applying adhesive.

Finishing and curing

- Remove adhesive residue immediately and inspect the completed floor under good light.
- Roll the entire installation at completion and again if directed by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Prevent foot traffic, wet cleaning, rolling loads and heavy furniture until full cure. Normally allow at least 48 hours; longer may be required in cool, humid or non-porous conditions.
- Use clean protective boards for following trades only after the adhesive permits access. Do not use impervious covers that trap moisture or heat.
- Retain spare planks flat in a stable, dry location, together with product labels, batch information, adhesive details and installation records.

INSTALLATION RECORD

Keep dated substrate-moisture readings, site-condition records, preparation and adhesive invoices, batch labels, trowel details, photographs and the installer's job card. These may be required for a warranty assessment.

Cleaning, protection and maintenance

Initial care

- Do not wet-clean until the adhesive has fully cured. Remove loose installation dust with a soft broom or vacuum with the beater bar switched off.
- Use non-staining walk-off mats at entrances. Rubber-backed mats can discolour vinyl and must not be used.
- Fit broad, non-staining protectors or clean felt pads beneath furniture. Use soft castors suitable for resilient flooring on office chairs.
- Move furniture over rigid protective runways; never drag heavy objects across the floor.

Routine cleaning

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove grit.
- Damp-clean with a clean microfibre system, room-temperature water and a suitable diluted vinyl-floor cleaner. Rinse or replace dirty pads rather than redistributing dirt.
- Do not flood the floor. Excess water can reach joints and affect the adhesive or substrate even though the vinyl product itself is waterproof.
- Do not use steam mops, harsh chemicals, dishwashing liquid, wax, polish, abrasive cleaners or scouring pads.
- Clean protectors and castors regularly, trim pet nails and move rugs periodically to reduce uneven fading.

Heat and sunlight

- Protect areas in front of fireplaces and heaters with a suitable heat-resistant platform. Avoid concentrated heat on the vinyl.
- Use blinds, curtains or solar control where intense direct sunlight may overheat the floor.
- For embedded underfloor heating, obtain written flooring and adhesive approval, keep the screed surface at or below 27°C and change temperatures gradually.

Warranty summary

Aurora II Herringbone carries a 20-year limited heavy-residential warranty and a 5-year limited general-commercial warranty, subject to the current FINfloor glue-down warranty, correct fit-for-use selection, professional installation and proper maintenance.

- The warranty covers qualifying manufacturing defects and defined wear, fade and stain performance; it does not cover installer workmanship.
- Wear must penetrate the wear layer sufficiently to affect the printed décor. Ordinary surface scratching, gloss change and texture change are not wear-through.
- Failures caused by moisture, alkalinity, hydrostatic pressure, incompatible preparation products or adhesives, poor subfloor preparation, telegraphing, excessive water, heat, burns, gouges, scratches, indentation, staining, abuse or incorrect maintenance are excluded.
- The original purchaser must retain proof of purchase. Report concerns first to the retailer/installer, who should inspect the site and initiate the formal claim with photographs and supporting records.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

This guide combines the FINfloor dry-back installation requirements with the Aurora II Herringbone box specifications. Always check the current product, adhesive and warranty documents on www.finfloor.co.za before installation; the most restrictive compatible requirement applies.