

# Guide for installation of QUICK•STEP® floors over heated sub-floors



## General guidelines

This is a general guide, intended for flooring professionals. In all cases, consult your local retailer or distributor if you have any questions about the suitability of the product selected, or the process of installation.

Quick-Step Engineered timber, laminate, vinyl & hybrid floors can mostly be installed over heated sub-floors.

**Please note:** In the Quick-Step timber range, both **Blackbutt** and **Spotted Gum** are not permitted over heated floors, due to their tendency to show fine cracks when exposed to heat or low humidity.

Installation over heated floors requires special considerations and installation practices. This is because the changes in temperature can have a substantial effect on the moisture content of both the sub-floor structure and flooring, while the temperature change can affect the floorcovering in different ways.

In general, 'in-slab' low temperature systems are preferred, either hot water or electric systems can be used. Hot water systems are preferred, as they provide a more homogeneous heat across the floor, with less variation. It is best to cover 'electric blanket' or wire systems with a cementitious screed or levelling compound of at least 5mm.

The elements should be installed right up to the walls, to reduce variation in temperature across the floor. The levelling compound serves to provide a level sub-floor, accommodate electrical components and connectors, while also improving the evenness of the floor temperature. Only floating installation should be used over electric blanket style heating systems.

## Preparation

For new heating installations on concrete floors, it is best to run the heating system for up to 14 days prior to the installation of floor coverings. The purpose of this is to 'push out' the residual moisture content from the subfloor prior to installation. This should reduce concrete moisture content to 50% RH. Switch off the heating for 48hrs prior to installation. Always ensure that the sub-floor levelness is in accordance with the installation instructions.

## Points of attention:

1. For all floating installations, a 200um PE film must be installed between the heated sub-floor and the new floor covering. Joints should be overlapped 300mm and taped. The recommended underlay and flooring should be installed over this film.
2. The surface temperature of the sub-floor must not exceed 27° Celsius. This will require a sub-floor surface temperature probe and should not be confused with the air or 'ambient' temperature of the room.
3. After installation, bring up the heating temperature by 2 degrees per day, until the correct temperature is reached.
4. For timber and laminate floors, try to keep the humidity in the room above 45% RH, to avoid an excessively dry environment for your timber and laminate floors. Humidity can be increased with use of plants, water features or humidifiers.
5. Electric blanket' or 'loose lay' heating systems without a screed can be used under floating floors, however such systems must provide a dry, flat and stable surface on which to install the flooring. 'Spongy, soft, or uneven surfaces do not provide a suitable subfloor for the installation of Quick-Step timber, laminate, vinyl or hybrid floor coverings.

## Installation

**Engineered timber, laminate and hybrid flooring** can be floated over 'Blanket style' systems. Many of these systems include a foam or soft layer, so it is important to ensure they are not excessively soft or uneven, if in doubt consult your retailer or distributor. Always include a 200um damp barrier, and ensure humidity remains above 45% RH.

**Engineered timber floors** can be direct stuck to heated sub-floors under the following specific conditions:

- Only In-slab hydronic heated systems are suitable.
- Blackbutt and Spotted Gum is not permitted.
- Only products with a matt brushed surface are suitable.
- Concrete moisture must not exceed 50%rh when measured with a hygrometer, and figure recorded prior to commencement.
- A damp-proof/Adhesive system recommended for this application is used, and instructions followed.
- Fine gaps and cracks during the heating period are to be expected.
- Points 2,3 and 4 above are also applicable.
- For any other questions always contact Floorscape New Zealand.

**Vinyl plank flooring** can be glued directly to 'in slab' heated subfloors. Ensure the concrete is sufficiently flat and stable to properly anchor the planks. Only use the recommended adhesive, and allow 48hrs for the adhesive to cure, prior to bringing up the temperature at a rate of 2°Celsius per day.

Finally, always follow all other installation instructions supplied with the product, and if you have any doubts, consult your retailer or distributor.