



Luvanto Pace  
Luxury Design Flooring

## Fitting Instructions

### Important Information

- Handle cartons carefully to protect the flooring from damage.
- Before you begin the installation, inspect the flooring material for any obvious defects. Ensure you have the correct colour, pattern, quantity, and that all the material is of the same batch number. Beginning the installation means that you have accepted the conditions.
- Acclimatising the flooring and the area being installed to the same constant temperature is always the best practice. The room and flooring temperature should not be below 18°C or above 29°C during the installation. Thereafter the room temperature should always be maintained between 13°C or above 29°C. All areas must be fully enclosed & weather-tight, with permanent HVAC in operation.
- Pace should not be exposed to temperatures greater than 60°C under any circumstances. It must not be installed near any excessive heat sources, such as wood burning stoves, fireplaces, Aga's etc.
- Pace must be installed directly to the subfloor. A separate underlay must not be used under any circumstances.
- Pace may be installed over a continuous floor area up to 400m<sup>2</sup> without leaving any expansion joints across the floor. However, if there are any expansion joints in the subfloor, the flooring must not be installed over these joints. A corresponding expansion joint must be left in the floor. The maximum continuous run without an expansion joint is 40m.
- To allow for building/subfloor movement leave a **minimum 3mm expansion gap** around all walls and fixtures. Door jambs should be undercut.
- For a really neat finish around the perimeter of the room, use the colour-matched **Finishing Strip** to conceal the expansion gaps and any rough cuts next to the skirting boards. Alternatively, a low modulus silicone sealant, that is suitable for expansion joints, can be used to conceal the gaps. Do not use decorators caulk or any other form of solid gap filler.
- Mix planks from several cartons to ensure a random variation.
- To prevent fading and discoloration, Pace should be protected from prolonged exposure to direct sunlight if room will be heated above 26°C.
- Do not install under permanent fixtures such as kitchen units and fitted furniture.
- These fitting instructions must be followed exactly, to avoid invalidating the Warranty. The responsibility to determine the suitability of the flooring for the situation, and to fit the flooring carefully and professionally, lies only with the installer.
- We recommend that installation is carried out by a qualified flooring fitter.

### **Subfloor preparation:**

Subfloors must be free from dust and dirt, permanently dry, rigid, even and flat to within 2mm height variation over a 3 metre distance in any direction. Dusty and highly porous surfaces (such as OSB and particle board) must have any loose dust and dirt removed and be sealed with a primer (PVA or similar).

### **Plywood:**

If installing a plywood layer underneath Pace, a European grade plywood, minimum 6mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ) thickness must be used. Plywood must be free of foreign material, dust free, level & even. Arrange plywood on the floor so joints of the plywood do not align with the subfloor joints. Secure the plywood panels using 25mm deck screws at 150mm intervals with the heads sunk below the surface of the plywood panel. Using a floor levelling compound for Plywood, skim all joints & over screw heads. Allow to dry & sand any rough areas. Always install & fasten plywood according to the manufacturers' recommendations.

### **Timber Subfloors:**

The floor must be rigid, free from movement and have at least 450mm of well-ventilated air space below. Pace should not be installed over wooden subfloors built on joists over, on grade, or below grade concrete floors unless specific design has been undertaken to eliminate the chance of failure due to the excessive moisture emissions from the concrete.

### **Concrete Subfloors:**

Concrete floors should be prepared according to ASTM F-710, Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring.

Floors must be smooth, rigid, flat, level, permanently dry, clean and free of all foreign material. Corrective patching/levelling should be with cementitious based patching and/or underlayment materials. The surface of the concrete must be flat to within 2mm height variation over a 3 metre distance in any direction.

If there are any expansion joints in the concrete, the flooring must not be installed over these joints. A corresponding expansion joint must be left in the floor to prevent any gapping or buckling of floor joints over this expansion joint.

### **Floor Levelling Compounds (Screed)**

The best type of Floor levelling compound is cement based and comes with a polymer additive. This type of compound will not promote mildew growth, have much higher psi strength and better adhesion properties to the subfloor. It is recommended to only use the highest quality materials. Many failures have been directly attributed to the use of gypsum-based screeds and levelling & patching compounds because of poor indentation resistance, poor resistance to mould, mildew and separation of the product within itself. Regardless of which screed or levelling compound is used, any failures in the performance of the compound or flooring due to the compound is the responsibility of the compound manufacturer and the installer, not QA Flooring Solutions.

## Old Adhesive Residue

If the residue is on an asphalt floor it must be dealt with in one of two ways:

1. It may be mechanically removed (e.g. bead blasting or diamond grinding).

2. A self-levelling cementitious screed may be applied over it. Check with the screed manufacturer for suitability, application instructions and warranties.

**Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Residue of the remover left within the subfloor will affect the adhesive layer of the Pace flooring. Warning regarding complete adhesive removal: some solvent based Asphaltic adhesives removers may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Do not use power devices, which create asbestos dust in removing these adhesives. The inhalation of asbestos dust may cause serious bodily harm.**

## Existing Floor Coverings:

Pace may be installed over a single layer of resilient flooring such as sheet vinyl, ceramic tile and epoxy coatings. The flooring must be flat and smooth, non-cushioned and securely glued down. Any loose or broken pieces in the existing flooring must be securely fastened first and grout lines wider than 3mm must be filled in. Do not install over soft/textile flooring, such as carpet or carpet tiles.

## Radiant Heated Floors:

Pace may be installed over radiant heated floors provided the operating temperature does not exceed 29°C. The room temperature must be maintained at a minimum of 18°C for 48 hours before, during and after installation. After this the temperature of the radiant heating system must be increased gradually – by 1°C per day – until the desired operating temperature is reached, so that the substrate and the flooring can adapt to the temperature change together.

## Moisture Testing:

It is essential that moisture tests are taken on all concrete floors regardless of age or grade level with a minimum of three tests for the first 100 square metres. The test should be conducted according to Annex A (normative) — Dampness testing in BS 5325, BS 8203, BS 8425 and BS 8201 – using the Hygrometer Box Method or Hygrometer Sleeve Method. One test should be conducted for every additional 100 square metres of flooring. The test should be carried out in positions where moisture levels will be at their highest, such as near the room perimeter, near to columns or areas of poor ventilation or little exposure to sunlight.

The Relative Humidity (RH) of the subfloor must be less than 75% in accordance with the above test methods. If the test result is 70% or higher, a liquid damp proof membrane must be applied first. If the test result is greater than 75% the subfloor must be left to dry for longer.

**Note: It may not be the floor installer's responsibility to conduct the test. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering.**

When moisture tests are conducted it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test. The flooring contractor cannot be held responsible if moisture appears in the future, causing a failure.

### **Storage:**

Flooring shall be stored in a clean, dry environment, protected from the elements. Store cartons on a smooth, level surface. Stack cartons squarely. Do not stack more than 10 cartons high. Do not store tiles and planks on their edges. Do not drop cartons. Do not double stack pallets. Storing flooring at high temperatures and on uneven surfaces may cause a permanent distortion of the material.

### **Tools needed:**

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Set square and ruler
- Sharp utility knife
- Safety gloves

### **Installation:**

- Remove plinths, skirting boards (or scotias) and other wall base material. Under-cut door trims to allow flooring to be installed under trim and move freely.
- Measure the room to determine the centre line, adjust that centre line in either direction to give a balanced width of plank on each side of the room. Determine the distance from your starting wall where the first row of planks will start and snap a chalk line along the starting wall.
- If the first row is less than the full width of the plank, or if the wall is not straight, scribe the plank to fit and cut the first row to the needed size **leaving a minimum 3mm gap** between the tile and the wall. Avoid having cuts less than 75mm wide along the edges of the room.
- Starting in the corner, install the first row of planks along the chalk line. The first row must be straight as it is the foundation for the rest of the installation.
- End joints should be staggered a minimum of 200mm.
- A 'dry run' before permanent installation can be done by laying the planks/tiles with the release paper still attached to the back.
- To install the planks/tiles permanently, carefully peel the release paper from the back of the plank/tile, to expose the adhesive, and press gently to the subfloor. The greater the pressure applied to the tile/plank, the more aggressive the adhesive bond will be. It is best to apply very little pressure until the flooring is in the exact position desired. Butt all pieces tightly together.
- The adhesive system will allow the planks/tiles to be uplifted and re-laid, so you can reposition them if needed.
- Do not use any additional glue to install.
- To cut a piece of Luvanto Pace, use a sharp knife to score top surface well. The piece will then snap along the score line. Always make cuts before removing the release paper and use the knife to cut the paper after snapping. Wear protective gloves when scoring to avoid cutting hands.
- For detail cuts around door posts and objects like radiator pipes, carefully mark the shape of required cut-out onto the piece and use the knife to cut the piece to shape.

- Upon completion install skirting or colour-matched Finishing Strips to cover the expansion gap around the wall. Take care to nail or glue the skirting to the wall and not to the flooring.

### **After installation:**

- Clean the floor thoroughly with vacuum cleaner and/or soft mop to remove any grit and debris before placing furniture back in the room.
- Don't fix any items permanently onto, or through, the floor.

### **Care and maintenance:**

- The single greatest cause of damage to any flooring is abrasion from dirt and grit. Wherever possible, use walk off mats at entrances and doorways, and vacuum mats regularly.
- Ensure you use non-staining mats on the floor. Rubber-backed and latex-backed mats, tyres, and asphalt sealers may stain or damage the surface.
- Use non-staining floor protectors under heavy furniture and equipment. Castor wheels should be protected by castor cups.
- Chairs should have clean, smooth, non-staining floor protectors. Ensure there are no nicks or burrs on the protectors. Felt protectors must be cleaned regularly to ensure there is no grit build-up. Floor protectors should be at least 25mm in diameter and rest flat on the floor.
- When moving heavy furniture and equipment, use appropriate furniture sliders or strips of plywood to roll or slide the furniture or equipment.
- The key to successful maintenance of all flooring types is the removal of dirt and soil. Mopping with a sponge or string mop alone removes very little soil, but rather it dissolves the dirt and spreads it out evenly across the floor creating a dull, dirty film and migration into the floor joints.
- For best results, clean and maintain your floor with the Luvanto Floor Care Kit. We also recommend the use of micro-fibre mops and pads for dust mopping and scrubbing. On larger installations using an automatic scrubber or wet vacuum is the preferred way to remove soiled water and rinse water.
- Do not use a steam cleaner.
- Do not use a vacuum cleaner with rotating brushes or beater bars.
  
- If you need to access underneath the floor or replace a damaged piece in the future, individual planks/tiles can be uplifted. To uplift a piece, gently push the blade of a sharp knife into one of the end joints and lever the piece up. When the piece has been lifted up enough, it can be peeled away from the subfloor by hand.
- If the uplifted pieces are to be re-laid again, ensure that the exposed adhesive layer is not contaminated with dust and dirt before they are re-laid, as this will weaken the bond with the subfloor.