

# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

## General Rules

1. **Never** start any installation using InstaLay without first carefully reading the detailed installation instructions for the type of flooring you intend to install. These instructions contain important information that could void the product warranty if not adhered to properly. These instructions can be found at the following URL: <http://www.instaflor.co.uk/downloads/installation-instructions.aspx>;
2. **Never** install any floorcovering on InstaLay if the ambient temperature of the installation environment is below 10°C (50°F);
3. **Always** use a damp proof membrane (DPM), such as 600 gauge or 6 mil polythene sheeting, when installing on a concrete subfloor. The DPM joints must be overlapped by a minimum of 150mm (6") and be taped along the joints with an adhesive tape. The DPM should be allowed to extend up all perimeter walls to a height of 50mm (2"). The excess DPM up the perimeter walls must be trimmed off after completion of the installation at the height of the finished floorcovering.
4. **Always** acclimatise the floorcovering in the installation environment according to the manufacturers recommendation, with a minimum of 48 hours prior to the installation;
5. **Always** acclimatise the InstaLay in the same installation environment as the floorcovering and for the same period of time as the floorcovering;
6. **Always** install InstaLay with the rubber surface facing towards the subfloor and with the release film facing upwards towards the floorcovering;
7. **Always** ensure that the InstaLay joints are closely butted together;
8. **Always** ensure that the InstaLay joints run in the opposite direction to the planned lengths of the floorcovering joints. In instances where the floorcovering tiles are square or rectangular in shape, run the InstaLay joints at 45 degrees to the planned tile joints;
9. **Never** cut into the InstaLay scrim when slitting the InstaLay release film to expose the adhesive membrane during an installation. This will damage the InstaLay irreparably and will void the product warranty. When slitting the film always lift the film off the InstaLay slightly and cut into the void between the release film and the scrim of the InstaLay;
10. If a roll of InstaLay has been deformed during shipping, storage or transportation, it may have waves, ridges or bubbles when it is laid out flat on the subfloor. In such instances **always** allow the InstaLay to relax for at least 12 hours at an ambient temperature above 10°C (50°F) before commencing the installation of the floorcovering;

## The Golden Rules of InstaLay

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11. If underfloor heating is installed, **always** allow the room temperature and the underfloor heating to stabilise at 22°C (71.6°F) for at least 48 hours before commencing the installation and for 48 hours after the installation has been completed. The Underfloor heating temperature should then be brought slowly back to the normal operating temperature in small increments over a period of 7 days. A maximum temperature of 27°C (80.6°F) should never be exceeded.
  
12. **Always** store InstaLay part-rolls carefully. First roll them up tightly with the release film facing outwards. Tape the roll closed around the full circumference approximately 15cm (6") in from each butt-end. Cover the part roll with its original polythene outer packaging and tape this closed to keep the roll dust-free. Store the roll standing upright on one butt-end so that it does not get squashed or distorted by other heavy materials being placed on top of it;
  
13. When the adhesive membrane of the InstaLay is exposed, **never** allow any contamination of this membrane with dirt or dust as this will cause a weakening of the adhesive bond or, in severe cases, may nullify the adhesive altogether.

# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

## Broadloom Carpet Installation

1. **Always** carefully read the detailed installation instructions for broadloom carpet installations at: [http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15226/instalay\\_30\\_50\\_single-stick\\_carpet\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v8.pdf](http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15226/instalay_30_50_single-stick_carpet_installation_instructions_v8.pdf) for single-stick installations and at [http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15223/instalay\\_30\\_50\\_double-stick\\_carpet\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v9.pdf](http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15223/instalay_30_50_double-stick_carpet_installation_instructions_v9.pdf) for double-stick installations before commencing the installation using InstaLay;
2. **Always** watch the broadloom carpet installation video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1Xv00ZwnrU> before commencing an installation using InstaLay. There are several tips and shortcuts that are demonstrated that could save significant time and effort;
3. **Always** run the InstaLay joins in the opposite direction to the planned carpet joins and make sure that the joins are closely butted together;
4. **Always** leave a slight gap between the InstaLay and the skirting if a neat tuck finish is desired. This gap should be equal in size to the thickness of the carpet;
5. **Never** leave a gap between the InstaLay and the skirting if you intend to cut the carpet in flush with the wall or the skirting;
6. **Always** secure the carpet joins using heat bond tape and a flat iron if the installation will be subject to wheeled traffic, castor wheels, heavy foot traffic or regular wet cleaning;
7. If the carpet backing contains jute or the carpet is made from natural fibre such as sisal, **always** use a double-stick installation method to install the InstaLay. **Always** use carpet gripper around the edges of the installation in order to avoid shrinkage should the carpet become wet. Also **always** use heat bond tape and a flat iron to secure all the carpet joins.

# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

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## Carpet Tile Installation

1. **Always** read the detailed installation instructions for carpet tile installations at: [http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15232/instalay\\_30\\_50\\_loose\\_laid\\_to\\_the\\_sub-floor\\_carpet\\_tile\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v3.pdf](http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15232/instalay_30_50_loose_laid_to_the_sub-floor_carpet_tile_installation_instructions_v3.pdf) before commencing the installation using InstaLay;
2. **Always** run the InstaLay joins at 45 degrees to the planned tile joins to ensure that the InstaLay and carpet tile joins never coincide;
3. **Always** follow the carpet tile manufacturer's instructions regarding the layout pattern required and install accordingly;
4. In any situation where a castor wheel chair is utilised, a floor protection mat should always be used. This prevents any possible damage to the carpet tile by the castor wheels.

# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

## T&G Solid Wood Installation

1. **Always** read the detailed installation instructions for carpet tile installations at: [http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15229/instalay\\_30\\_50\\_wood\\_floor\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v9.pdf](http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15229/instalay_30_50_wood_floor_installation_instructions_v9.pdf) before commencing the installation using InstaLay;
2. **Always** use InstaLay high grab adhesive products in order to secure the T&G joins and lock the floor together;
3. **Never** install solid wood planks that are less than 20mm (3/4") thick or greater than 127mm (5") wide using InstaLay;
4. **Never** install solid wood on InstaLay in an environment where the relative humidity of the air is less than 45% or greater than 55%
5. **Never** install planks on InstaLay that are slightly bowed, warped or twisted;
6. **Always** follow the wood floor manufacturer's detailed recommendations regarding the acclimatisation procedure required for the wood. In any event, **always** acclimatise the wood for more than 48 hours in the ambient conditions of the actual installation environment;
7. **Always** acclimatise the InstaLay in the same installation environment as the floorcovering and for the same period of time as the floorcovering;
8. **Always** leave the wood floor manufacturer's recommended expansion gap between the wood floor and all the perimeter walls and internal pillars/columns. The same expansion gap specified for the wood must also be left between the InstaLay and the perimeter walls. The InstaLay must not protrude into the expansion gap area – this area must be kept totally clear for expansion and contraction purposes;

# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

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## T&G Engineered Wood Installation

1. **Always** read the detailed installation instructions for carpet tile installations at: [http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15229/instalay\\_30\\_50\\_wood\\_floor\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v9.pdf](http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15229/instalay_30_50_wood_floor_installation_instructions_v9.pdf) before commencing the installation using InstaLay;
2. **Always** use InstaLay high grab adhesive products in order to secure the T&G joins and lock the floor together;
3. **Always** follow the wood floor manufacturer's detailed recommendations regarding the acclimatisation procedure required for the wood. In any event, **always** acclimatise the wood for more than 48 hours in the ambient conditions of the actual installation environment;
4. **Always** acclimatise the InstaLay in the same installation environment as the floorcovering and for the same period of time as the floorcovering;
5. **Always** leave the wood floor manufacturer's recommended expansion gap between the wood floor and all the perimeter walls and internal pillars/columns. The same expansion gap specified for the wood must also be left between the InstaLay and the perimeter walls. The InstaLay must not protrude into the expansion gap area – this area must be kept totally clear for expansion and contraction purposes;

# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

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## Click-joint Engineered Wood and Laminate Installations

1. **Always** read the detailed installation instructions for carpet tile installations at:  
[http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15229/instalay\\_30\\_50\\_wood\\_floor\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v9.pdf](http://www.instaflor.co.uk/media/15229/instalay_30_50_wood_floor_installation_instructions_v9.pdf)  
before commencing the installation using InstaLay;
2. **Always** use InstaLay low grab adhesive products for easier snapping of the click joints;
3. **Always** follow the wood floor manufacturer's detailed recommendations regarding the acclimatisation procedure required for the wood. In any event, **always** acclimatise the wood for more than 48 hours in the ambient conditions of the actual installation environment;
4. **Always** acclimatise the InstaLay in the same installation environment as the floorcovering and for the same period of time as the floorcovering;
5. **Always** leave the wood floor manufacturer's recommended expansion gap between the wood floor and all the perimeter walls and internal pillars/columns. The same expansion gap specified for the wood must also be left between the InstaLay and the perimeter walls. The InstaLay must not protrude into the expansion gap area – this area must be kept totally clear for expansion and contraction purposes;
6. In situations where boards have to be clicked-in from difficult positions or from below cut-in recesses, **always** cut out the InstaLay that should adhere to the base of these individual boards and remove the release film from the InstaLay. Adhere the cut-to-size InstaLay strip directly to the base of the board prior to clicking such boards in place;

# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

## Dryback LVT Installation

1. **Always** read the detailed installation instructions for dryback LVT installations at: [http://www.insta-floor.co.uk/media/15289/instalay\\_25hg\\_30hg\\_loose\\_laid\\_to\\_the\\_sub-floor\\_with\\_lvt\\_dryback\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v5.pdf](http://www.insta-floor.co.uk/media/15289/instalay_25hg_30hg_loose_laid_to_the_sub-floor_with_lvt_dryback_installation_instructions_v5.pdf) before commencing the installation using InstaLay;
2. **Always** watch the LVT installation video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXyMhw7T6ck> before commencing an installation using InstaLay. There are several tips and shortcuts that are demonstrated that could save significant time and effort;
3. **Always** use InstaLay high grab adhesive products in order to ensure a firm bond to the dryback LVT and lock the floor together;
4. If the LVT is less than 3mm thick, then **always** use the InstaLay 2.5mm product (IL25hg);
5. **Always** follow the LVT manufacturer's detailed recommendations regarding the acclimatisation procedure required for the LVT. In any event, **always** acclimatise the LVT for at least 48 hours in the ambient conditions of the actual installation environment;
6. **Always** acclimatise the InstaLay in the same installation environment as the LVT and for the same period of time as the LVT;
7. If the LVT's are square or rectangular in shape, **always** run the InstaLay joints at 45 degrees to the planned tile joints to ensure that the InstaLay and the tile joints never coincide;
8. **Never** install LVT's on InstaLay in conservatories or other areas that are exposed to increased heat (temperatures in excess of 27°C / 80.6°F) due to direct sunlight, exposed fireplaces or any other sources of increased heat.
9. Where heavy point loads are applied **always** use a point load coaster to spread the point load and reduce the potential for localised indentation marks.
10. In any situation where a castor wheel chair is utilised, a floor protection mat should **always** be used. This prevents any possible damage to the LVT by the castor wheels.
11. For LVT's in rooms less than 100m<sup>2</sup> (1076 ft<sup>2</sup>) **always** leave a minimum expansion gap of 3mm (1/8") between the LVT and all the perimeter walls and internal pillars and/or columns. The same expansion gap between the LVT and the perimeter walls must also be left between the InstaLay and the perimeter walls. For LVT's in rooms greater than 100m<sup>2</sup> (1076 ft<sup>2</sup>), **always** leave a minimum expansion gap of 10mm (7/16"). The InstaLay must not protrude into the expansion gap area – this area must be kept totally clear for expansion purposes;



# The Golden Rules of InstaLay

## Click-joint LVT Installation

1. **Always** read the detailed installation instructions for click-joint LVT installations at: [http://www.instafl oor.co.uk/media/15235/instal ay\\_30lg\\_loose\\_laid\\_to\\_the\\_sub-floor\\_with\\_lvt\\_click\\_joint\\_installation\\_instructions\\_v4.pdf](http://www.instafl oor.co.uk/media/15235/instal ay_30lg_loose_laid_to_the_sub-floor_with_lvt_click_joint_installation_instructions_v4.pdf) before commencing the installation using InstaLay;
2. **Always** use InstaLay low grab adhesive products for easier snapping of the click joints;
3. **Always** follow the LVT manufacturer's detailed recommendations regarding the acclimatisation procedure required for the LVT. In any event, **always** acclimatise the LVT for at least 48 hours in the ambient conditions of the actual installation environment;
4. **Always** acclimatise the InstaLay in the same installation environment as the LVT and for the same period of time as the LVT;
5. If the LVT's are square or rectangular in shape, **always** run the InstaLay joins at 45 degrees to the planned tile joins to ensure that the InstaLay and the tile joins never coincide;
6. **Never** install LVT's on InstaLay in conservatories or other areas that are exposed to increased heat (temperatures in excess of 27°C / 80.6°F) due to direct sunlight, exposed fireplaces or any other sources of increased heat.
7. Where heavy point loads are applied, **always** use a point load coaster to spread the point load and reduce the potential for localised indentation marks.
8. In any situation where a castor wheel chair is utilised, a floor protection mat should **always** be used. This prevents any possible damage to the LVT by the castor wheels.
9. In situations where tiles have to be clicked-in from difficult positions or from below cut-in recesses, **always** spray the InstaLay adhesive membrane with a very fine water mist. This will temporarily nullify the adhesive and allow these tiles to be positioned and clicked-in before the adhesion returns to full strength;
10. **Always** leave the LVT manufacturer's recommended expansion gap between the LVT and all the perimeter walls and internal pillars/columns. The same expansion gap specified for the LVT must also be left between the InstaLay and the perimeter walls. The InstaLay must not protrude into the expansion gap area – this area must be kept totally clear for expansion and contraction purposes;
11. If the LVT manufacturer does not specify the size of the expansion gap, in rooms less than 100m<sup>2</sup> (1076 ft<sup>2</sup>) **always** leave a minimum expansion gap of 3mm (1/8") between the LVT and all the perimeter walls and internal pillars and/or columns and for rooms greater than 100m<sup>2</sup> (1076 ft<sup>2</sup>), **always** leave a minimum expansion gap of 10mm (7/16").