

AscendXD™ Performance Flooring INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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NOTE: This document may have been updated and revised. Visit floorfx.com for the most current version of this guide, warranty information, and maintenance guidelines.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND MATERIALS:

- Safety glasses
- Measuring tape
- Square
- Utility knife
- Spacers
- Straight edge
- Pen
- Chalk line
- Power saw with 40-tooth blade

RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND MATERIALS FOR FLOOR PREPARATION, IF APPLICABLE

- Floor patching compound
- Trowel
- Embossing leveler
- Scraper
- Grinder

SITE CONDITIONS

Store boxes of AscendXD Performance Flooring on a flat and level surface, stacked no more than five (5) boxes high. Never store boxes on their sides. Room temperature must be kept between 65°F– 85° F (18.3°C– 29.5° C) for 48 hours prior, during and after installation.

SUBSTRATES

AscendXD can be installed over many different types of substrates. Make sure that the surface is clean, dry, structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius (4.7 mm per 3 m). Substrate must be rigid, as too much deflection can result in a failed installation. Maximum deflection should not exceed 3/64" (1.1 mm).

AscendXD may not be installed over plank floors, cushioned-backed vinyl flooring, asphalt-based floors, carpet, carpet padding, self-adhering plank or tile, laminate or other floating flooring or structurally-damaged concrete.

Concrete Substrates

All concrete (new and existing) must be tested for moisture and pH levels. Concrete shall have a minimum compressive strength of 3500 psi. Moisture vapor emission rate shall not exceed 8 lb/1000 sq. ft. (3.63 kg/92.9 sq. m)/24 hours per ASTM F1869. Moisture must also be tested according to the test method ASTM F2170; the internal relative humidity should not exceed 90%, and pH level should be between 7 and 9. IF MOISTURE IS PRESENT, DO NOT PROCEED WITH INSTALLATION OF ASCENDXD, corrective measures must be taken. Do not install when hydrostatic pressure or alkaline conditions are evident. New concrete must be properly cured.

Wood Subfloors

Wood floors should be a minimum of 3/4" (19 mm) thick, APA approved grade tongue and groove plywood or 23/32" (18.25 mm) OSB, with a smooth finish, free from spring and deflection. Ensure the surface is clean, dry, structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius (4.7 mm per 3 m). Secure loose substrate panels, squeaks, and loose fasteners or fasteners that are protruding above the substrate. Deflection must not exceed 3/64" (1.1 mm).

Existing Resilient Floors

When installing over existing resilient flooring, ensure that the existing sheet good or tile product is in good condition, and that it was installed in the full spread method and is properly secured. AscendXD can be installed over a single layer of non-cushioned sheet good flooring. Please note, it may be best to remove the existing floor and prepare the subfloor for a fresh installation. If adhesive was used for the existing resilient floor, it should be stripped using a product that is an appropriate stripper for vinyl to remove wax or other contamination and rinsed with clear water and allowed to dry.

Gypsum Substrates

AscendXD may be installed as a floating floor over flooring grade gypsum subfloors when properly installed over a subfloor that is structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius (4.7 mm per 3 m).

Gypsum and lightweight concrete substrates should be in accordance with the listed standards listed in section A below. Unprimed gypsum substrates may have a dusty surface and be porous, which will lead to an adhesion bond failure if not properly sealed and treaded. It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to obtain verification from the general contractor or responsible party that the gypsum was properly sealed with the gypsum manufacturer's recommended sealer. Conduct testing according to the appropriate ASTM Test Method for Gypsum Surfaces.

- a. Gypsum surfaces shall be in accordance with and properly prepared in accordance to the appropriate ASTM specifications listed above.
- b. Conduct a surface porosity test to ensure the surface has been properly sealed. If the water is quickly absorbed, stop installation and contact FloorFX Technical Services at 503-222-0745.
- c. Check moisture content of the gypsum substrate via the appropriate method according to the ASTM standards listed above. Moisture content of the substrate shall not exceed the adhesive requirement or 75% RH or 3 lbs/1,000 sf/24 hours MVER. When using the D4263 Test Method, no discoloration of the surface should be seen.
- d. All patching compounds must be recommended for use with gypsum, gypcrete, or lightweight concrete surfaces by the patch compound manufacturer. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding use, mixing, and application.
- e. All gypsum surfaces must be properly primed according to the gypsum manufacturer's instructions, or when there are no instructions, follow the instructions from the adhesive manufacturer.

Marble, Quarry Tile, Terrazzo, Ceramic Tile

Installation over marble, quarry tile, terrazzo and ceramic tile is acceptable, as long as the flooring is structurally sound and flat within 3/16" per 10 foot radius (4.7 mm per 3 m).

Radiant Heated Floors

AscendXD may be installed over embedded radiant-heated floors provided the operating temperature never exceeds 85 °F (29.4 °C). The radiant system should be in operation for three (3) weeks prior to installation of AscendXD. For 48 hours prior to and during installation, the system should be kept at 65 °F (18.3 °C). Once the installation is completed, the heat should be gradually increased by a maximum of 5 °F (2.8 °C) per day until the desired heat setting is reached.

PRE-INSTALLATION PREPERATION

- Check box labels to ensure that they are the correct product. Inspect all planks for visual defects and damage prior to and during installation. Do not install damaged or defective planks. FloorFX will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
- Room temperature must not be less than 65° F (18° C) for 48 hours prior to, during and 48 hours after installation. Maximum temperature should not exceed 85 °F (29.4 °C).
- Substrate must be free of dust, debris, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents and any other foreign matter. Any adhesive residue from prior installations must be completely removed.
- Substrate must be secured.
- High spots in substrate should be leveled and low spots should be filled with a cement-based floor patch material to ensure substrate is level to within 3/16" in 10 ft. (4.7 mm in 3 m).
- All construction seams, expansion joints, gaps and holes greater than 3/16" (4.7 mm) should be filled and level with the surrounding surface using cement-based patching material. This will to eliminate telegraphing of such irregularities.
- During installation, open several boxes at a time and mix planks from different boxes for best results and overall appearance.

WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES. These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to www.rfci.com.

Patching and Leveling

Only use cement-based patching and leveling compounds. Check with patching and leveling compound manufacturers for curing times and instructions for use. Check moisture levels prior to

starting installation to ensure moisture levels are within guidelines outlined in the Concrete Substrates section of this document.

The contractor or owner is responsible for cure time, moisture content testing, and the structural integrity of any leveling or patching compound used.

Prior to Installation

- Boxes should always be stored horizontally and protected from damage.
- Do not install cabinets on top of AscendXD or secure or fasten any objects on top of the floor.
- During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.
- Do not begin installation prior to ensuring required quantities for installation and waste are on-hand. FloorFX cannot guarantee that future production runs will match existing production runs exactly.
- Remove all moldings and undercut doorway moldings to the thickness of the flooring.
- AscendXD is a floating floor and should never be nailed down to the substrate.
- AscendXD is intended for indoor use only.
- Determine which direction planks will be installed. It is recommended to install planks running parallel to the longest wall.
- Prior to installation of the first row, measure the room to determine the width of the last row. The last row must not be less than 2" wide (excluding the tongue). The first row's width must be cut accordingly if the last row is less than 2".
- A minimum of 1/4" (6.35 mm) expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room and all vertical objects.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Important

- AscendXD is warranted as a floor covering only.
- Failure to install AscendXD with a FloorFX approved adhesive when such flooring will be exposed to direct sunlight voids all warranties, express or implied; furthermore, the end user shall assume full responsibility for any failure of the flooring, and FloorFX shall be released from any claims, damages, or liabilities whatsoever arising out of or related to the failure to install AscendXD with an approved adhesive when the flooring is exposed to direct sunlight.

Instructions

1. Lay planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. Make sure the plank tongue is facing the starting wall.

2. Place 1/4" (6.35 mm) spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks join.
3. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by overlapping the tongue side over the groove side of the previous plank insuring that the planks are perfectly aligned, then with firm pressure, push the end joint downward till the end of the plank snaps in place. Install remaining full planks in the first row.
4. The last plank in the first row will need to be cut to fit. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 1/4" (6.35 mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 8" (20 cm), the length of the first plank in the row must be cut. The first and last plank in each row should be at least 8" (20 cm) in length. Use a minimum 40-tooth blade on a power saw to cut planks. The remaining piece cut off from the last plank in the first row may serve as the first plank in the second row if it is at least 8" (20 cm) long. Make sure to stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 8" (20 cm) apart.
5. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Place a 1/4" (6.35 mm) spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank.
6. Install the second plank of the second row. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side, fully engage into the receiver of the first row of product. Lower the plank to the floor insuring that the end joint is overlapping and perfectly aligned, with firm pressure; push the end joint downward till the end of the plank snaps in place. Continue installing planks in the second row. Important! Make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.
7. Continue working from left to right, row by row. Be sure to maintain a 1/4" (6.35 mm) space around all walls and vertical objects and maintain a random appearance. Remember to offset end joints a minimum of 8" (20 cm).

Stair Installations

All stair applications must be installed using the full spread adhesive method with a premium urethane based adhesive.

Finishing the Installation

- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of the room.
- Install quarter-round or baseboard molding. Molding should be of sufficient size to cover the 1/4" (6.35 mm) space and should be fastened to the wall. Do not fasten moldings through the flooring.

Commercial Installations

All commercial installations of AscendXD that will have rolling loads are required to be glued to the substrate. The use of approved adhesive is required; please contact FloorFX for more information.

POST-INSTALLATION

Follow AscendXD Performance Flooring Maintenance Instructions found at floorfx.com.

Important Notices

- Use plywood to cover the flooring when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use floor protectors under the legs of furniture and chairs.
- Heavy furnishing loads placed on the AscendXD can pin a locking product down to the substrate which may prevent the product from expanding and contracting evenly, causing side or end separation, peaking or gapping. FloorFX recommends that any AscendXD installations with rolling loads or heavy furnishings be installed with adhesive.
- Post-installation temperature must be maintained between 65 °F - 85 °F (18.3 °C - 29.4 °C).
- Relative humidity must be maintained between 40% and 60%.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of sunlight. FloorFX requires the use of UV protective film, blinds, curtains or shades to ensure AscendXD is protected from sun and are not overheated due to this exposure, which may cause buckling.
- Where AscendXD cannot be protected from direct sunlight, it must be installed with adhesive.

WARRANTY

For warranty information, visit floorfx.com.