

## Kitchen Floor Installation Guide

We are often asked what order flooring should be installed – before or after the kitchen?

### Floating floors:

This is the most popular installation method.

Advantages:

- Quicker to install, less disruption;
- Working to this suggested order will minimise the risk of damage to the new floor by other trades;
- If the floor is damaged eg. a flood, it is often easier to repair than a glued down floor.

Method:

- The preferred method is to install the cabinet carcasses and any wall hung fittings before the floor goes down;
- Leave panels and toe kicks off the cabinetry. After the floor is finished your kitchen installer will need to come back and install end panels, waterfall bench tops and toe kicks;
- Leave skirting boards off, these are installed after the floor;
- All other trades – electricians, plumbers, painters, etc should have finished their work. This minimises the likelihood of damage. The owner should arrange removal of dishwashers and other plumbed in appliances that will sit on the floor;
- The floor will be installed a little way under the cabinets. The reason for this is that the floating floor should not have any heavy units on it that will stop the small movements (expansion/contraction) that will naturally occur;
- It is the owner's responsibility to protect the floor once it has been laid, if other trades have not been completed;
- T&G floors will need aliphatic PVA glue, in which case no-one should walk on the floor for 12 hours after completion;
- **Panels that are not removed will need to be undercut. Preferably this will be done by the cabinetmaker; the installer will not be responsible for damage to cabinetry from undercutting.**
- The homeowner will need to arrange for reconnection of any plumbing, dishwashers etc.

### Glued down floors:

Occasionally if circumstances permit, a floor may be glued down. (see our Installation Guides under the Additional Information download link for more detail)

- In this case the floor goes in before the kitchen, all the way to the walls;
- Allow the normal gaps of 8 – 15mm for expansion and contraction;
- Panels may not need to be removed, but in this case caulking will be required, and will be visible;
- Ideally, kitchen units that are heavy eg. granite tops, should still have the legs installed directly onto the subfloor as with the method for floating floors. In this instance, the kitchen installer may have to cut the flooring out in small areas to fit around legs;
- No-one should walk on the floor for 12 - 24 hours after completion.