

### PREPARATION

Prior to installation, there is some preparation required to ensure fitting your flooring runs as smooth as possible.

**Important:** Carefully inspect all boards for any defects. Planks installed with visible defects are not covered under warranty, and is the owner/installer's responsibility to check the suitability of their Asenso flooring and accompanying products. Please do not install any plank or tile that is considered questionable in appearance or dimensions.

### 1. BEST VISUAL RESULTS

The flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in colour, texture and sheen/gloss. For best visual effect, work from 3-4 boxes and shuffle planks or tiles. Avoid installing similar planks next to one another.

### 2. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Ensure your subfloor is dry and use a spirit level to ensure your floor is level for best installation results.

While this product is waterproof, it's not a moisture barrier. Moisture won't damage this product, but it can get in the walls and structure of the home. It's still a good idea to make sure your concrete is cured and tested for moisture, and that a moisture barrier is installed under your Asenso floor if it is to be fitted over a concrete subfloor.

Because houses and buildings, as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors, expand and contract, it is recommended to leave a 1-3mm expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor.

Wood subfloors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a self-levelling patch.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and should have minimum 6-mil polyfilm between concrete and ground. If not level, grind down high spots and fill low spots with self-levelling compound.

**WE DO NOT RECOMMEND** installing over an existing floor.

### 3. ACCLIMATIZATION

Asenso is waterproof and does not require acclimatization, though it is still recommended to store and install the material in an environment that has been acclimated to acceptable living conditions.

### 4. PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

**Tools:**

- Tape measure.
- Pencil.
- Chalk line.
- Crosscut power saw.
- 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape.
- ¼" Spacers
- Straight edge or ruler
- Utility knife & sharp blades
- Tapping Block
- Tape Measure
- Hammer
- Safety Glasses
- Broom and dust pan
- Adhesive

**Acceptable subfloor types:**

- CDX Underlayment Grade Plywood. (at least ½" thick)
- Underlayment grade particleboard.
- OSB. (at least ¾" thick)
- Concrete slab.
- Existing wood or laminate floor.
- Ceramic tile.
- Resilient tile & sheet vinyl.

### 5. SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. Carefully examine the flooring prior to installation for colour, finish, sheen, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project.

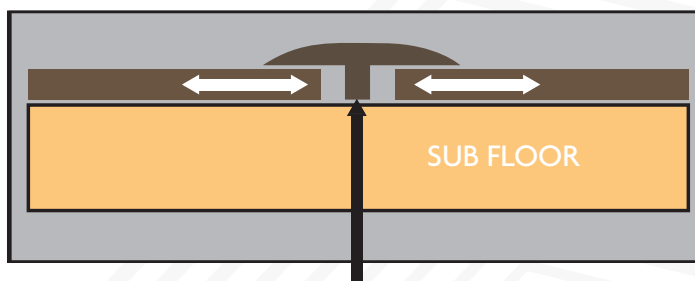
If you have a crawl space, it must be a minimum of 18" (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6–20 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

Room temperature and humidity of the installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. After installation, a room temperature range between 15°C and 41°C and a humidity range of 30–50% is recommended.

## 6. WALL JAMB AND DOORWAY PREPERATION

Remove all trim, baseboards and quarter rounds. Identify them on their reverse side for reinstallation. Remove doorway thresholds, which may or may not require reinstallation. For door casings, you will need to notch the bottom of the casing with a saw or chisel so that the Asenso flooring can slide freely beneath it. To make a straight cut easily, lay a handsaw flat on a piece of scrap flooring as a guide. If the installation is multi-room and rooms are separated by a doorway, each room should be separated by a T-moulding which will be installed as a threshold between the 2 rooms/areas. Install as noted in **Figure 1**.

**Figure 1.**



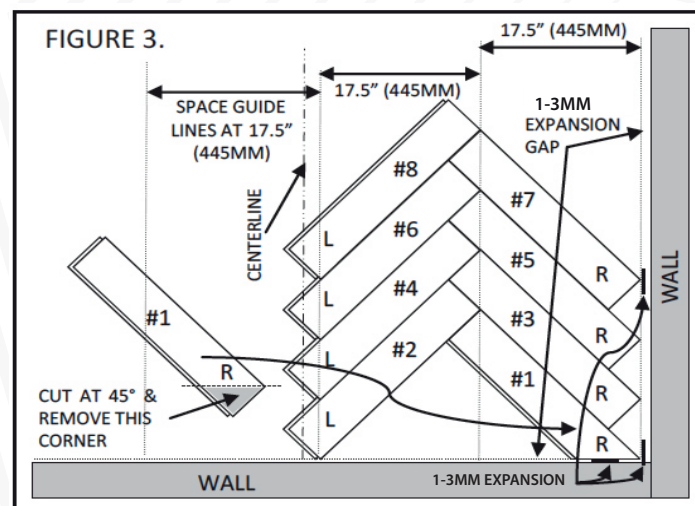
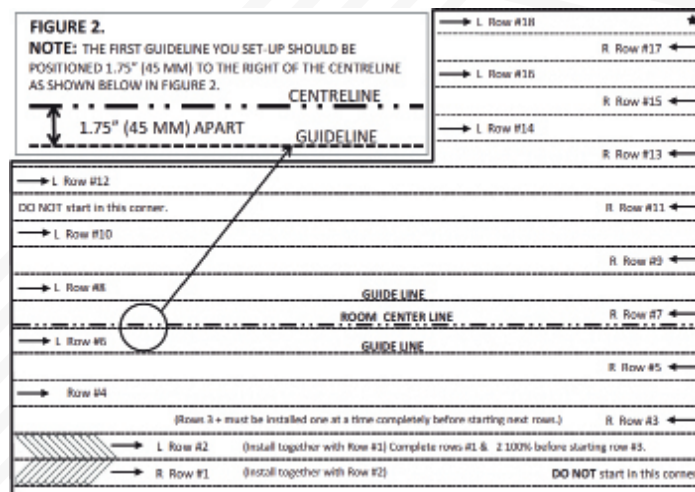
Use adhesive to fasten the T-moulding to the sub floor. Do not glue it to the flooring. Leave a 1-3mm gap between the planks and each side of the T-moulding to allow for expansion.

## 7. GETTING STARTED

- When installing your herringbone Asenso floor, your initial set-up and planning of the room is key to a successful installation. For the optimal appearance of the floor, herringbone floors should be centered along the length of the main body of the room so that the cut pieces on both sides are the same size and the floor symmetrical. Follow the room set-up example shown in **Figure 2**:
- First measure and mark your installation area's centerline using your chalkline. Next, measure out from the centerline and mark out each of your guide rows using your chalkline, off-setting by 1.75" (45mm) from the center line.
- Each herringbone row is 17.5" wide (445mm) wide when measured "corner to corner" of the visible surface of the planks as shown in **Figure 3**: Use this measurement to plan out and mark where your guide lines will be made using your chalkline. Note that all of your measurements must be very precise, straight and square. Mark all of your guide lines before starting the installation.
- Note that your exterior guide lines along the walls must be 1-3mm from the walls on all sides, as well as along any other vertical surfaces. This space serves as an expansion gap to allow the floor to expand and contract daily/seasonally as indoor temperatures change.

### 7. GETTING STARTED

- Note that you can only start your floor installation of either of the 2 opposing corners shown in **Figure 2**. DO NOT start installing in a different corner or any other position or row in the room. Refer to **Figure 2** for further reference when planning your starting point and row installation sequence. In **Figure 2**, we have shown a typical living room & dining room area; note how the installation starts in the lower left corner following the longest wall. The alternate starting corner is noted in the opposite corner with a \*, however, this is not recommended since this is the smaller area of the installation. It is always best to follow the longest wall as shown in **Figure 2**.
- Note that there are 2 differently milled herringbone planks in each box, 12 RIGHT and 12 LEFT; you can easily identify them with their different profiles as shown in **Figure 4**. When opening boxes, set out planks in separate piles of LEFT and RIGHT planks to make installation more convenient. Each row will use only LEFT or RIGHT planks as shown in **Figure 2**. You cannot mix them per row.



### 8. STARTING THE FIRST ROW

- Starting your first row started is simple; Apply the adhesive to the subfloor in your marked out area. Use one of the recommended adhesives and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Lay the floor on top of the adhesive in the sequence shown in **Figure 3**. This will form a double row in the form of an "inverted V". Position each plank in place exactly following the numbered sequence shown.

You can adjust the planks as needed and then push down on the planks so that the adhesive transfers from the subfloor to the back of the planks. Wipe away any glue residue immediately with a damp cloth

- Use the next plank to help to precisely align the previous plank; this will make installation faster and more accurate. For example: plank 3 will help you to exactly align plank 2, plank 4 will help you to exactly align plank 3 and so on. Refer to **Figure 5** for visual reference.

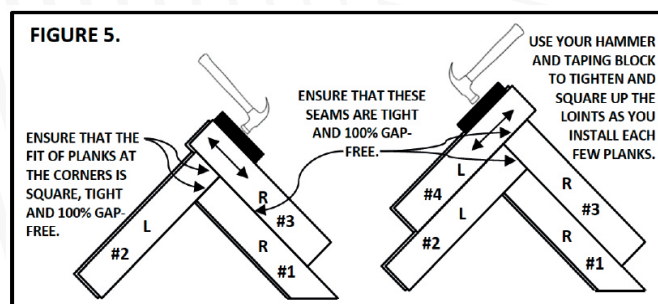
- It is very important to ensure that when you place the planks together that they are perfectly tight and square to each other. There cannot be any small gaps whatsoever; if you notice a gap, STOP, and reinstall the board to ensure a snug fit. You can use your tapping block as shown in Figure 5 to tighten up any gaps and keep planks square at 90°.

- Once you have the first 8 planks glued together, shift and position the block of 8 planks to exactly follow and be aligned with your starting row guide lines. Be certain to leave a 1-3mm expansion gap.

- Place 1-3mm spacers or shims every approx. 8 planks to help keep your floor from shifting as you install it as shown in Figure 3. Planks must never be in direct contact with any wall, cabinet or other vertical surface.

- Continue to install your starting row; after each 8 planks, stop and check that all of your planks are 100% tightly placed together and that there are no gaps. Also check that both rows are following your chalk lines exactly and not deviating from them whatsoever. If needed, gently shift your rows of planks so that you are exactly following your 2 chalk lines.

- You must fully install your double starting rows 1 & 2 100%, **DO NOT** commence to install any other rows or parts of the floor until your starting double row is 100% completed, perfectly straight and free of any gaps. Within 30 minutes after laying use a heavy roll to bond the adhesive to the planks.



### 9. INSTALLING THE FINAL ROW

- You are now ready to start row 3 which will only use RIGHT format planks.
- With the exception of rows 1 & 2, all even # rows will start on one side of the room and all odd # rows will start on the opposite side of the room as shown in Figure 2.
- When installing each plank in rows 3 onward, use your tapping block & hammer to tighten up each plank as you go; a firm tap will ensure all small and hard to see gaps are eliminated and that each plank is perfectly square at 90° to the previous row. Never tap a plank directly with a hammer or other object, always use your tapping block.
- As mentioned earlier, after each 8 planks in all rows, stop and check that all of your planks are 100% tightly locked together and that there are no gaps.
- After row 3 is 100% complete, start row 4 and install it 100% following all steps previously mentioned. Continue installing all remaining rows completely one-at-a-time until all rows are 100% finished except for cut rows.
- Note that you may use a rubber mallet to tap on the surface of planks to help set them into place.

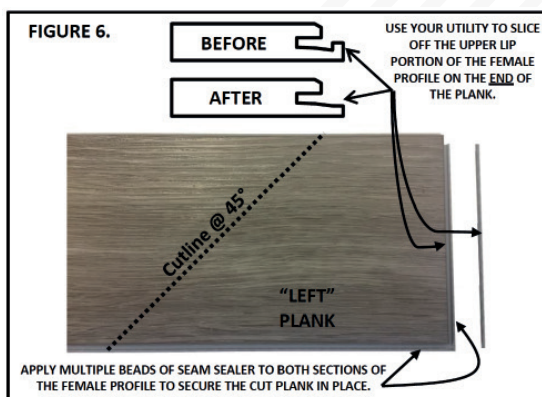
### 10. CUTS & DETAILS

- Now that you have all of the main body of the floor installed, you are ready to start to install your cut rows and fill in your “triangle” shaped openings at each end of the room.
- Installing your cut plank sections requires the use of a vinyl seam sealer to secure them in place; it is quick and easy to use. Follow the seam sealer manufacturer’s recommendations and precautions; always immediately wipe away any excess seam sealer and clean the area with a clean damp paper towel.

The procedure to fill in each of the remaining cut areas of the floor is different; follow the procedures as noted below for each area:

### TIA. CUT ROW ALONGSIDE ROW 1 WHERE INSTALLATION STARTED

1. Mark your cut-line on the plank at 45° so that when installed, you maintain the required 1-3mm expansion gap.
2. Measure carefully and cut the plank to the required size.
3. Using your utility knife, carefully trim off the outer lip of the female profile from ONLY the end of the cut plank so that it can be easily inserted into the floor; refer to in Figure 6.
4. Apply a bead of vinyl seam sealer to both of the female profiles as shown in Figure 6.
5. Insert the cut plank into the floor so that it fits tightly.
6. Immediately and thoroughly wipe up any excess seam sealer that may bleed through from the seams using a clean paper towel.
7. If necessary, secure the cut sections with a small piece of blue or green painter's tape until the seam sealer sets and dries.



### TIB. CUT ROW ALONGSIDE ROW 1 WHERE INSTALLATION STARTED

1. Regardless of the direction of your last row, the planks when cut to 45°, will quickly and easily drop into place using the same method as installing a regular row of planks.
2. Mark your cut-line on the plank at 45° so that when installed, you maintain the required 1-3mm expansion gap.
3. Before inserting the cut planks, apply multiple beads of vinyl seam sealer to both of the profiles of the existing planks in the floor where the cut plank will fit.
4. Immediately and thoroughly wipe up any excess seam sealer that may bleed through from the seams using a clean paper towel.
5. If necessary, secure the cut sections with a small piece of blue or green painter's tape until the seam sealer sets and dries.

### 12. UNDERFLOOR HEATING

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over underfloor heating.
- Floor temperature must not exceed (30°C).

**Warning:** Failure to follow adhesive manufacturer's guidelines and temperature limitations will result in failure and void warranty. Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath ACE floors.

### 13. AFTER INSTALLATION

If you are completing a renovation project and other tasks are yet to be completed, in order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work, use rosin paper and only use 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath.

**DO NOT USE** plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.

- Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you clean the floor using a recommended ph neutral cleaner.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, etc.).

### 14. PROTECTION OF YOUR FLOORING

- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile-oil drips onto the vinyl floor covering.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- Use floor protectors under furniture.



### 15. IMPORTANT

We can not be held accountable for faulty installations due to site conditions. Planks installed with visible defects are not covered under warranty.

For information regarding warranties, please contact your supplier.

- If you are fitting your Asenso flooring around pipes, first mark the position of the pipe in the board you're using with a pencil. Then carefully drill a hole in this position and make two angled cuts with a saw. These cuts should form a wedge from the edge of the board to the hole which can then be removed. Fit the board around the pipe and then reattach the wedge with glue behind the pipe so the plank looks intact.
- You can then use scotia beading and doorbars to cover expansion gaps and blend the new floors in with your existing walls and joining rooms, creating a professional and seamless finish.
- Any spare planks or cuttings should be kept if possible in case any repairs are needed to be made in the future.

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