

# WICANDERS WISE

## Installation Instructions Glue Down

**Proper Subfloor** preparation is crucial when installing Wicanders Wise as a glue-down flooring option.

**SURFACE CONDITION:** Ensure that the subfloor's surface is in good condition. It should be sound, clean, and free of contaminants that could hinder the adhesive bond. Common contaminants to watch out for include oil, grease, wax, dirt, asphalt, curing compounds, latex, gypsum, dust, paint, or other substances that might act as bond breakers.

**LEVELING AND REPAIR:** If the subfloor has any unevenness, crack, or imperfections, use a suitable leveling compound to level, smooth, or repair the surface. It's essential to address any subfloor irregularities before proceeding with the installation. Remember that the leveling compound's strength depends on the surface quality to which it is bonded.

**SUBFLOOR TYPES:** All wooden subfloors must be APA-rated, including a three or five-ply underlayment if it is installed over the subfloor. The preparation methods may vary depending on the type of subfloor you have. Gypcrete MUST be sealed and follow the recommended preparation procedures for that specific subfloor material.

**INTERIOR INSTALLATION SITES:** Wicanders Wise as a Glue-Down can be installed in interior settings, on, above, or below grade; however, it is unsuitable for saunas or persistently wet areas.

**WATER RESISTANCE:** If you plan to install this flooring in areas where water exposure is possible, such as bathrooms or areas with frequent spillages, take additional precautions. Seal the joints around the walls and vertical fixtures with a polyurethane sealant or water-proof silicone caulk to prevent water from penetrating under the floor. Doing this will help avoid adhesive deterioration and the growth of fungus, mold, or unpleasant odors.

**AVOID SHORCUTS:** While there may be less expensive or quicker methods of subfloor preparation, it's essential not to take shortcuts. Cutting corners during subfloor preparation can lead to installation problems and failures. Proper preparation is vital to a long-lasting and successful installation.

**FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S GUIDELINES:** Always follow the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for installing Wicanders Wise as a Glue-Down flooring.

**RADIANT HEAT:** When installing Wicanders Wise as a Glue-Down flooring over a heated subfloor, it's crucial to follow specific guidelines to ensure the proper functioning of the underfloor heating system and the longevity of your flooring. Subfloor temperature should not exceed 28°C (82°F) when using Wicanders Wise as a Glue-Down over heated floors. This temperature limit is essential to prevent damage to the flooring and maintain its performance. Ensure all hot water pipes and electrical heating elements are embedded in the concrete subfloor, following the appropriate building codes and regulations. The thickness of the screed for such systems ranges from 45-64mm (2 to 3 inches).

**DRYING PROCESS:** Proper drying of the heated subfloor is essential before installing the flooring. The concrete must be heated gradually before installation. Be aware that rugs or mats placed on the floor can act as heat accumulators and raise the floor surface, which should not exceed the recommended 20-22°C (82°F).

**HEATING PHASE:** the heating phase of concrete subfloors should begin no earlier than 21 days after the complete curing of the substrate. Start with a running temperature of 25°C (78° F) for three days. The subfloor should be in place and cured for at least 60-90 days before the heating phase begins.

**WOODEN SUBFLOORS:** We do not recommend installing over radiant heat in a wooden subfloor due to the fluctuation of temperatures that could cause expansion or contraction of the subfloor, resulting in an adhesive failure.

**TEMPERATURE INCREASE/DECREASE:** Gradually increase the temperature each day by no more than five degrees in a 24-hour period. Please be aware that electric heating systems may increase the temperature within an hour. Any increase within the 24-hour period should not exceed more than two degrees over a four-hour period. This allows for a slow increase in temperature to avoid compromising the dimensional stability of the flooring.

**POST-INSTALLATION HEATING:** After the flooring is installed, slowly increase the temperature to a normal level, not exceeding five degrees within a 24-hour period and not more than two degrees within a four-hour time period.

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE, AND ACCLIMATION:** Transport and store the cartons horizontally. Packed planks or tiles should be acclimated at the job site in a dry, well-ventilated area for a minimum of 24 hours so that flooring may acclimate. Do not stack more than three cartons high during the acclimation period. For acclimation, packaging must remain intact until installation begins. During acclimation and installation, dwelling mechanicals must be functioning to maintain the space as it will be when occupied. In most cases, this means keeping a temperature range from 18°C to 28°C (65°F to 82°F) and a relative humidity range from 35% to 65%.

**SUITABLE ADHESIVE:** The adhesive used must be appropriate for the chosen installation. Over concrete, it is unknown if there is a minimum of a 12 mil PE under the concrete as is required by IBC codes or if it may have been damaged or not adequately sealed, allowing vapor to permeate from the ground. For these reasons, we require a mitigating adhesive rated at 100% vapor resistant. Many adhesives may be used over concrete but may only resist vapor as low as 70%. Never use a mitigating adhesive on a wooden subfloor. ALWAYS follow the adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions. For suitable adhesives that have been tested with Wicanders Wise flooring, please click on [ADHESIVE FEB.pdf \(amorimflooring.com\)](#).

**SUBFLOOR TYPES:** *When in doubt, always contact the adhesive manufacturer* before installing over an unknown substrate. We mention only a few types of substrates for your consideration: cement screeds, anhydrite or plaster screeds, mastic asphalt, OSB, plywood with tongue-and-groove, artificial or natural stone, ceramic tile floorings, coatings, paint, and screed with underfloor heating.

**ALKALINE TESTING (pH TESTING):** In addition to moisture testing, consider testing the concrete for alkalinity, especially on newly poured slabs. Alkaline deposits on concrete can negatively affect the adhesive bond. Use pH testing paper to check the concrete's pH level. If the pH reading is ten or higher, neutralize the alkalinity before starting installation. Contact the adhesive company for instructions.

**CRAWL SPACE:** The crawl space must be adequately prepared when installing Wicanders Wise flooring, either floating or glue-down. Improper vapor barriers installed in crawl spaces could result in an installation failure or compromised planks or tiles. Air vents must be open. Amorim is not responsible for failed installations caused by improperly prepared crawl spaces. For more information about proper crawl space requirements, go to [www.NWFA.org](http://www.NWFA.org).

**FLOATING FLOOR WARNING:** Wicanders Wise floating floors are designed to move after installation according to temperature and moisture changes in the environment. Using installation methods that restrict these movements, such as nailing, screwing, or *improper glue-down methods*, can lead to the failure of the flooring. The use of a Glue-Down installation will not eliminate the risks of failure, and Wicanders Amorim will not provide any guarantees or warranties for floors improperly installed this way. If an adhesive fails, a claim MUST be made with that adhesive manufacturer.

**SUBFLOOR MOISTURE REQUIREMENTS:** Subfloors must be permanently dry, especially on concrete substrates without radiant heat.

Concrete subfloors: without radiant heat must have an RH of 75% or less. All concrete subfloors, whether new construction or existing must have a 6 mil PE installed prior to installation. Overlap each sheet a minimum of 4 inches and secure with duct tape.

The perimeter of 6 mil PE must extend up any vertical penetration not less than 2 inches, including walls. This includes ceramic over concrete and stone floors. Testing is required for all concrete or gypcrete flooring. ASTM F2170 testing using in-situ probes must be in accordance with the ASTM requirements of three tests for the first 1000 square feet and one for every 1000 square feet after that. Calcium chloride moisture tests are not as effective in analyzing a concrete slab’s moisture content except at the concrete’s surface. The use of Calcium chloride moisture tests is to ensure that moisture emissions levels must be less than 3 lbs/1000 sf in a 24h-hour period.

Type of Subfloor	Moisture contente CM% Heated	Non-heated
Concrete	1,5 or ≤ 75% RH	2,0 or ≤ 75% RH
Anhydrite	0,3 or ≤ 75% RH	0,5 or ≤ 75% RH

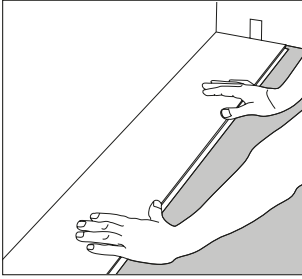
Substrates with higher than 75% RH may be at risk of hydrostatic pressure. Wicanders Wise is not responsible for issues under its flooring.

**GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION AND VAPOR-PROOF SUBFLOORS:** Substrates intended to be covered with Wicanders Wise as a Glue-Down installation (vapor-proof) require either sealing the substrate using a 100% mitigating sealer, installing a minimum 6-mil PE over the slab, or using a 100% mitigating adhesive. Installing on a wooden subfloor over a basement depends on the basement's condition and the moisture that may permeate upwards into the flooring. Installing a wooden subfloor over a crawl space is dependent on the proper preparation of that crawl space. Wicanders Wise is not responsible for issues below the flooring that affect our products.

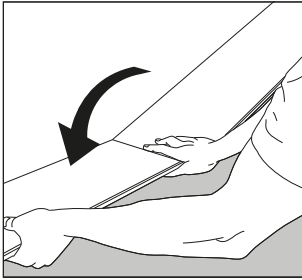
**EQUAL OR BIGGER WIDTH FOR THE FIRST AND LAST ROWS:** Ensure that the widths of the planks in the first and last rows are equal to or larger than 5cm (2 inches) of the plank or tile. Doing this ensures a balanced and visually appealing layout.

**EXPANSION GAP REQUIREMENTS:** Floor covering may expand or contract, as may the buildings. Leaving the same proper expansion gaps as a floating installation is essential. Doing this will eliminate pressure along planks around the perimeter.

**EXPANSION JOINTS:** Flooring must not be glued over any expansion joints. Doing so may tear or damage the flooring. Wicanders Wise is not responsible for damage due to expansion joints. As the NWFA installation guidelines indicate, flooring that is secured to a slab should not bridge moving joints without allowing for a breaking point. When concrete decides to move, it is going to move. Expansion cracks in concrete have a purpose. These joints are placed or cut into the concrete to encourage cracking to follow an orderly, predetermined pattern. There are several types of cracks to be aware of when installing over a concrete slab, including Construction (or cold joints), Control (or Contraction joints), Isolation joints, Acoustic joints, and expansion joints. During installation, this crack must be honored. When gluing down flooring, the safest way to honor these cracks is to use specific bridging products made by adhesive manufacturers to help isolate the flooring from the slab in those areas.

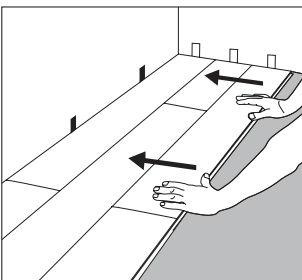


Turn the tongue side of the plank facing the wall

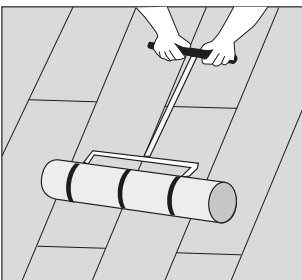


Hold the next plank against the first at an angle to the first one and lay it flat on the floor.

Complete the first row in the same way.



Proceed the installation as described above until reaching the opposite wall.



The floor must be rolled with a 50 Kg roller, every 30 minutes, and upon completion of installation, to ensure that the tiles are firmly bedded into the adhesive.