

# Trade Essentials® Particleboard Flooring

Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring is made from a very high moisture resistant particleboard and features an easy to use tongue and groove system that gives the flooring remarkable strength in the unsupported joists. Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring is manufactured using extra fine wood particles. This ensures a far better distribution of the water resistant resins across the entire surface. In addition, all edges are coated with a wax edge seal. There is also the option of Termite Treated Particleboard Flooring, should the specific situation demand this protection.



## APPLICATIONS

Trade Essentials® Particleboard Flooring is a three layered particleboard, bonded with moisture resistant resin and wax, specifically formulated for use as interior flooring.

It is suitable for all domestic housing as well as commercial installations, provided it is installed to the requirements of AS 1860 (Installation of Particleboard Flooring).

It can be used for a variety of framed building constructions including fitted floor, upper storey and platform construction.

## PROPERTIES

(Typical physical properties when tested to AS/NZS 1860.1)

Specification	Unit	THICKNESS	
		19mm	22mm
Density	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	690	670
Internal Bond	MPa	0.80	0.70
Modulus of Rupture	MPa	25.0	25.0
Modulus of Elasticity	MPa	3400	3400
Thickness Swell (24hr)	%	<5	<4
Thickness Stability	%	<10	<9
Surface Water Absorption	g/m <sup>2</sup>	<60	<60
Glue Bond Quality	MPa	15.5	14.0
Wet Bending Strength (Method A)	MPa	5.0	5.0

## WEIGHT

Thickness	19mm	22mm
kg per m <sup>2</sup>	13.1	14.7

## FIRE TEST RESULTS

Classification	Result
Critical Heat Flux	5.6kw/m <sup>2</sup>
Smoke Value	9% min

## MOISTURE RESISTANCE - GENERAL INFORMATION

Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring is capable of withstanding general weathering for up to 3 months. To maintain best practice, boards must be covered on building sites.

It is recommended to avoid where possible, exposure of the panels to severe conditions, such as prolonged exposure to intense sun, cyclic soaking rain etc, as these exposures have the potential to alter the moisture gradient of the panels and may cause dimensional change, similar to natural timber.

For further information refer: AS/NZS 1860.2: Particleboard Flooring Part 2 Installation.

## STORAGE AND EXPOSURE OF PARTICLEBOARD FLOORING

Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring should always be stored flat and in a dry area, with timber bearers spaced about 450mm apart to keep it off the floor or ground. Packs of board are best protected from the weather. In the event of water pooling, drill a maximum 3mm drain hole at spacings 1 metre or greater between holes to remove water.

Covering should allow some air circulation during the storage period. Packs should be protected on the top and sides with waterproof material (such as plastic sheeting). Packing should be used to keep plastic sheeting clear of the flooring pack so that air circulation can occur.

To maintain best practice, packs of Particleboard Flooring should be protected from the weather before installation. Particleboard Flooring should be stored for about 1 week (where possible longer) prior to fixing to allow adjustment to site conditions. Water absorption will cause expansion of the sheets and this will lead to gaps in the floor later when the particleboard sheet dries out. It is recommended to avoid where possible, exposure of the panels to severe conditions, such as prolonged exposure to intense sun, cyclic soaking rain etc, as these exposures have the potential to alter the moisture gradient of the panels and may cause dimensional change, similar to natural timber.

Like nearly all timber products, Particleboard Flooring may react to changes in humidity and to direct wetting, but if laid in accordance with the required standards and the recommendations outlined in this brochure, Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring will withstand the conditions of platform construction.

Water should not be allowed to lie on the flooring surface. Sweep it off or drill drain holes in positions that will be covered when the job is completed. It is recommended that protection by roof and walls be provided as soon as possible.

## SAFETY AND HANDLING

Particleboard is a reconstituted wood product containing wood, resin and wax. Machine tools should be fitted with dust extractors and the wearing of a dust mask is recommended. Material Safety Data Sheets for Particleboard Flooring are available on request from any branch of Laminex.

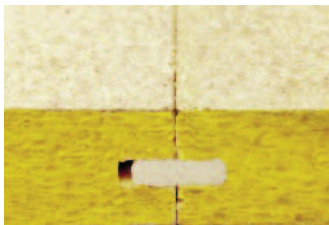
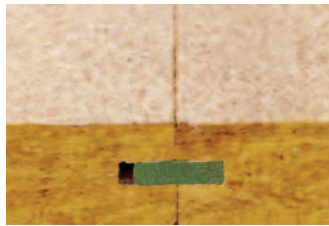
## PRODUCT RANGE

Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring has a plain core colour with a yellow wax edge seal to all edges. There are two product thicknesses each identified by the colour of their PVC tongue:

**Green tongue (19mm)** – For use with floor joists spaced at 450mm

**Beige tongue (22mm)** – For use with floor joists spaced at 600mm

Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring is available in different sheet sizes. There is also the option of Termite Treated Particleboard Flooring and Brown Tongue (25mm) for commercial applications. For full details contact your nearest branch of Laminex.



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. Assess the site

Ensure correct sub-floor clearance and ventilation as per Australian Standard 1860 "Installation of Particleboard Flooring", or local building regulations. Particleboard Flooring is not suitable under conditions of permanent dampness, i.e. where particleboard moisture content is permanently in excess of 16 per cent moisture content.

### 2. Positioning and fixing

Locate a string line parallel to the perimeter of the floor and at right angles to the joists. Fit the first new row of sheets with the tongued edge to the string line. This will ensure edge straightness. Tongue and grooved edges must run parallel to the span and sheeting must span no less than two floor joist spacings. Fix second sheet in a similar manner inserting plastic tongue into the groove of sheet one. Be sure to apply bead of adhesive to tongue prior to installation.

DO NOT cramp or over-tighten. After each row is laid, fully nail or screw the previous row (refer to the fixing pattern).

Install all sheets with the same face upwards, to ensure flush mating of adjoining faces. Butt joints should be staggered in alternative rows to give a rigid floor.

### Handy hints:

Laminex recommends Trade Essentials Construction Adhesive Liquid Bond or this application. This is a high performance, fast setting synthetic rubber based adhesive, specially formulated for the permanent and speedy installation of structural sheet flooring panels, in conjunction with supplementary mechanical fastenings.

If the tongue and grooved profile is changed to a square edge during trimming or cutting of sheet, re-profile the edge with a circular saw and insert a tongue, or alternatively use as square edged Particleboard Flooring.

Where Particleboard Flooring is used in square edge form, the sheets should be laid with their long edges supported by noggings or trimmers. Sheet butt joints must be staggered.

### 3. Fixing technique

Particleboard Flooring may be fixed on the subfloor with hand or power-driven fasteners. For a rigid squeak-free floor system, ensure a continuous 5mm bead of Trade Essentials Construction Adhesive Liquid Bond Adhesive is applied to all joists and along the top of the tongue. Two beads of adhesive need to be placed on the joist where the butt joint occurs.

DO NOT apply too far ahead as adhesive cures quickly. At all times follow instructions on the adhesive pack.

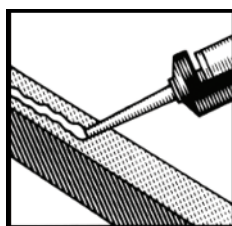
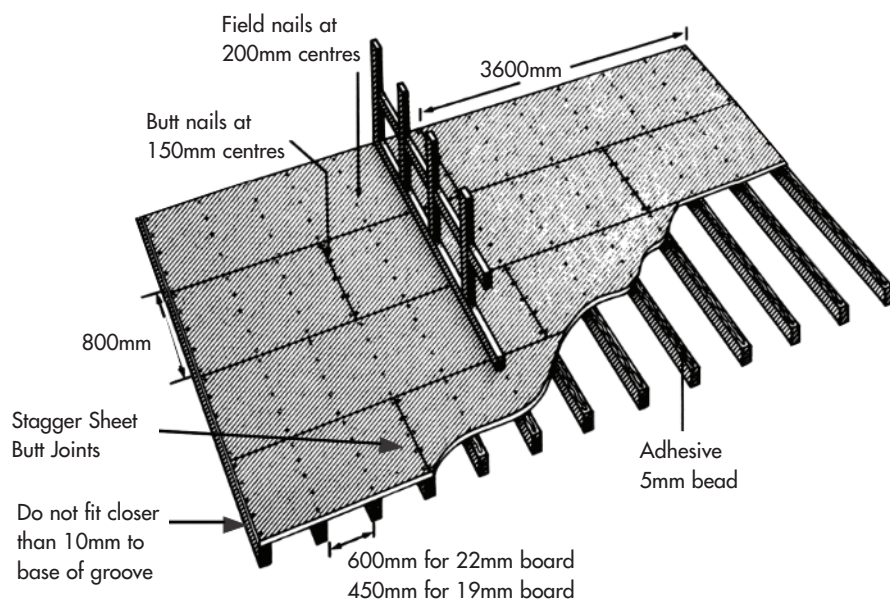
Where gun nailing, nail heads should not penetrate the surface by more than 1.0mm. Adjust air pressure to suit softwood or hardwood joists. Gun nail only in accordance with gun nail specifications. Galvanised nails are recommended.

Nails should be punched below the surface of the sheets just before the sanding or laying of floor coverings. This ensures firm seating of the flooring joists. Particleboard Flooring that is likely to be subjected to increased levels of traffic vibration should be fixed with spiral or helical shank nails.

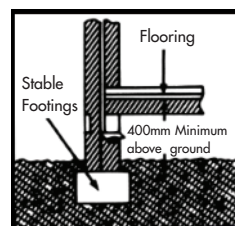
### 4. TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION

#### 4.1 Platform floor construction

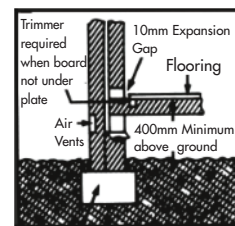
Platform flooring construction involves flooring laid on the floor joists over the whole floor area prior to the erection of the wall and roof framing. Trade Essentials Particleboard Flooring is capable of withstanding general weathering for up to 3 months. Less exposure however, is recommended. To maintain best practice, packs of Particleboard Flooring should be protected from the weather before installation. Particleboard Flooring will expand and contract as sheets respond to changes in atmospheric moisture.



#### PLATFORM CONSTRUCTION



#### FITTED FLOOR



Stable Footings

Nailing Method	Joist Type	Nail or Screw Size (mm)
Hand Hammer (nails)	Hardwood & Cypress Pine	50 X 2.80
	Softwood	55 X 3.15
Nail Gun (nails)*	All Timber Finished head	Ring shank D-head galvanised 65 x 2.8mm or similar
Screw	Timber	No. 10 X 50mm, Type 17 Countersunk head, Self drilling
Screw	Steel	No. 10 X 45mm Countersunk head, Self embedding wing tip

Allowance for the movement must be made throughout the floor area by providing gaps and special joints as appropriate to accommodate sheet expansion.

An expansion joint is a 20mm gap in flooring sheets located above a wide (50mm minimum) or double joist.

Extra joist area is necessary so that sheet ends can be properly fixed while still allowing the 20mm gap.

The joint may be covered by a metal or plastic moulding, screwed into the joist, or partitioning may be located over the joint. Spacing of expansion joints should be between 10mm and 20mm with the final decision depending upon the assessment of whether:

- the floor is elevated or on ground level
- the area is air conditioned
- it is a tropical region (coastal area, north of 27th parallel)
- what moisture variations are likely in the flooring

- Exposure to very hot sun, particularly after the board has been soaked by rain, may cause panel shrinkage and cupping. If this occurs, then light wetting of the board and shading of the site may help minimise the effect by slowing the rate at which the flooring dries.

DO NOT stack heavy concentrated loads on the floor; e.g. bricks, heavy structural materials.

DO NOT use the floor as a mixing table and avoid build up of plaster; concrete and paint on the floor.

#### 4.2 Fitted floor construction

Fitted floor construction involves construction of the floor after the internal walls. An expansion gap of 1–2 mm per metre of room dimension (10mm minimum) should be left around the room perimeter. This is usually covered by the skirting board. For large floor areas an expansion joint should be provided.

#### 4.3 Upper storey construction

Upper storey construction utilises Particleboard Flooring laid on timber joists and supported on wall framing/ internal brick work. Green and Beige Tongue Particleboard Flooring is ideal for internal upper storey construction and extensions.

### 5. Surface finishing

Australian Standard 1860 "Installation of Particleboard Flooring" provides guidelines for surface finishing.

- (a) Inspect for dampness, especially if board has been weathered before proceeding with finishing operations; if found to be excessively damp it shall be left until its moisture content is 15 percent or less.

- (b) If the flooring is to be covered with carpet, the surface should be firm and tight with no loose flakes or particles:

- (i) Nails should be inspected and hammered flush, screws should be flush with the surface.

- (ii) If the surface has been exposed to the weather, some sanding may be required. Full sanding may not be necessary, but rough or uneven areas should be spot sanded. Nail punching and screw counter sinking will only be necessary in these areas.

**Note:** FULL SANDING may be necessary if the Particleboard Flooring has been subjected to prolonged rain while being exposed.

- (iii) Sanding before carpet laying should be with 40-60 grit sand paper.

- (c) For other surface finishes, full sanding will usually be required if the particleboard has been exposed to the weather. The surface shall be given a first cut with 40-60 grit sand paper followed by 80-100 grit sand paper.

- (d) Depth of material removed shall not exceed the following except where otherwise specified by the manufacturer:

- (i) Over the general sheet area – 1mm

- (ii) Within 50mm of any supported edge – 2mm

- (e) All surfaces should be cleaned to remove dust.

### 6. Surface preparation - wet area rooms

(Bathrooms, kitchens, laundries)

- Procedures required by AS 3740 "Waterproofing of Wet Areas Within Residential Buildings", should be followed closely.
- Holes may be required in the floor to accommodate pipes, drains and plumbing wastes. These should be accurately drilled and cut ensuring that excessive material is not removed (rough punching is unacceptable).

- All edges should be sealed using pink primer; construction adhesive, or another suitable sealer.
- All building debris, plastic or other building matter should be completely removed and the floor surface sanded clean prior to waterproofing treatments.
- Joints between sheets should be carefully inspected and prepared. Flashing should be placed over joints.
- An impermeable membrane is required to seal the floor prior to the overlaying of surface finishes such as ceramic or PVC tiles. Laminex recommends the following for application:
  - (a) Davco Dampfast
  - (b) Bostick Ultraseal

Laminex recommends that the respective manufacturer's Construction Adhesive Liquid Bond instructions are followed when applying these products.

### 7. Resilient sheet and tile

The requirements of Australian Standard 1884 "Floor Coverings – Resilient Sheet and Tiles-Laying and Maintenance Practices" should be followed when finishing with materials such as flexible and semi-rigid cork, rubber, linoleum and vinyl.

Unsatisfactory results may be obtained if resilient floor coverings are laid directly on to the Green Tongue or Beige Tongue Particleboard Flooring, due to movement of the flooring or subfloor structure with changes in moisture content or settling.

Use of an underlay will minimise the risk of either failure of the bond between the covering and the floor; or of particleboard flooring sheet joints showing through the coverings. Underlay joints should not coincide with the particleboard flooring joints.