

## 1. Preparation & Acclimatisation

Proper preparation is critical to the performance and longevity of the Superstrata system. The subfloor must be structurally sound, clean, dry, and flat to SR2 tolerance (maximum 3mm deviation under a 2m straight edge).

- Remove all dust, debris, paint, oil, or existing floor coverings.
- Ensure concrete subfloors are fully cured (typically 28 days) and moisture levels are within acceptable limits.
- Move all tiles into the installation environment at least 24 hours prior to installation to allow them to acclimatise to the ambient temperature and humidity.

## 2. Required Tools

- Heavy-duty utility knife with rigid straight blades (have spare blades ready)
- Metal straight edge or ruler (minimum 1m length)
- Measuring tape and ballpoint pen/chalk for marking
- Wooden batten (for placing under tiles during cutting)
- Contact adhesive and spatula (only if a bonded installation is specified)

## 3. Installation Layout

Superstrata interlocking tiles must be laid in a 'half-brick' (stretcher bond) pattern. This configuration maximises the structural integrity of the floor, prevents four corners meeting at a single point, and ensures the tightest possible compression between tiles.

## 4. Step-by-Step Installation

### Step 1: The First Row

Draw a straight chalk line on the floor to guide your first row. Cut the very first tile in half (e.g., 500mm x 1000mm). Place this half-tile at the starting corner. Beside it, position a full tile. Insert the hidden connectors and compress the tiles together firmly by kicking them into place.

### Step 2: Managing Gaps

If tiles do not meet perfectly flush, lift the edge of the tile slightly, overlap it onto the adjacent tile, and force it down to create a tight compression joint.

### Step 3: Border Tiles

When reaching a wall or border, measure the remaining gap. Cut the final tile 5mm to 10mm larger than the measured gap. Do not squeeze it into place yet.

### Step 4: Subsequent Rows

Start the second row with a full tile against the wall (creating the half-brick offset from the first row). Continue laying full tiles across the room, using the connector pins and ensuring tight compression.

### Step 5: Final Compression

Once the entire floor is laid, return to the oversized border tiles. Push a metal ruler or flat tool downward into the gap and jam the tile in so it 'pops' into place under compression. This tension locks the entire floor system together.

## 5. Cutting Guidelines

Rubber tiles are dense and require proper technique to cut cleanly and safely:

- Place a wooden batten under the tile directly beneath your cut line. This opens up the cut as you score it, preventing the blade from binding.
- Do not attempt to cut through the tile in a single pass.
- Make an initial light score line using the metal straight edge.
- Make 3 to 4 subsequent passes, applying more pressure each time, keeping the blade perfectly perpendicular to the tile.

## 6. Maintenance & Cleaning

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and aesthetic appearance of your Superstrata floor.

- Daily: Vacuum or sweep to remove loose dirt and debris.
- Weekly: Damp mop using a pH-neutral floor cleaner diluted in warm water. Do not use excessive water.
- Deep Clean: For commercial environments, use a cylindrical brush scrubber dryer machine periodically.
- Avoid: Never use bleach, solvents, acidic cleaners, or petroleum-based products as these will degrade the rubber.