LAMINATE INSTALLATION GUIDE

This product features Uniclic locking system for easy installation and is installed as a glueless floating floor. The planks lock together to provide a tight water-resistant seam, can be installed over most floor surfaces, and are suitable for both residential and moderate commercial interior applications.

General information

- CAUTION WOOD DUST WARNING: Drilling, sawing, or machining of wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection.
- This product should be stored in conditions between 64°F and 77°F (18°C and 25°C) and transported and stored in a neatly stacked fashion on a smooth, flat surface.
- The heating and cooling system must be installed and activated for a minimum of two week prior to installation and the rooms to be installed should be between 64°F and 77°F (18°C and 25°C) with a relative humidity between 35% and 70% for a minimum of 5 days prior to delivery of the flooring. The rooms must be maintained at these conditions for the life of the product.
- This product must be allowed to acclimate to the environment of the installation area. Remove any plastic wrap that may have been used to ship the material and open the ends of the cartons. Leave the closed packages in a horizontal position in the room for at least 48 hours prior to installation. The room temperature must be between 64°F and 77°F (18°C and 25°C) before and during installation, with a relative humidity of 35% - 70%.
- Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.
- This product should only be installed after other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of debris that could potentially damage a finished plank installation.
- Do not install an additional underlayment under planks with pre-attached cushion.
- Inspect flooring in daylight for damage, defects, or shading issues before installation; claims for visual defects will not be accepted after cutting and/or installation. It is the duty of the person installing the floor to inspect all flooring before installation. If during inspection the installer or buyer feels the floor is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, is off-grade, or is the wrong gloss level, he/she should NOT install the flooring. Please immediately contact the retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claims will be accepted for flooring which is visibly wrong if such flooring is installed. Installed flooring is deemed to be visibly acceptable.
- Mix and install planks from several different cartons during installation to achieve desirable plank blend/variation. Do not install undesirable pieces. Only use one run-number (production lot) on a particular job.
- The maximum room/run size is 12 x 12 metres (40 x 40 feet).
- Transition moldings are required in all doorways.
- Leave a minimum of 3/8” (10 mm) for expansion around the entire perimeter of the flooring as well around all vertical obstructions including cabinetry, stone fireplaces, pipes, heating vents, door frames and doorway transitions etc.
- All cut edges must be sealed with a silicone sealant. Failure to seal cut edges will void the warranty.
- It is the responsibility of the installer and owner to ensure that job site environmental, sub-floor and subsurface conditions involved meet or exceed all requirements as outlined in installation instructions prior to installation. The manufacturer declines all responsibility for product performance or installation failure due to sub-floor, substrate, environmental deficiencies, or other jobsite conditions.
- The temperature of the floor surface must not exceed 85°F (30°C) at any point in time. For newly installed underfloor heating system, it should be turned on at its maximum temperature for several week to eliminate residual moisture prior to the installation of any flooring. Under floor heating should be turned off for at least 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after installation. When turning the under floor heating back on, gradually increase the temperature in increments of 5°F (2.8°C) every 24 hours but do not exceed 85°F (30°C).
- This product is not suitable for damp rooms such as saunas, rooms with damp concrete, rooms with floor drains, rooms subject to flooding, or for outdoor use.

Hints for Measuring: Measure the length and width to determine the square footage of the room. Alcoves or offsets should be measured separately. Purchase at least 10% extra to cover waste, trimming, and for future replacement needs.

Tools and materials needed

- Foam underlay (if not pre-attached)
- Pressure sensitive polypropylene adhesive tape
- 3/8” Spacers
- Saw
- Rubber Mallet
- Utility knife
- Pencil
- Tape measure
- Silicone sealant
- Straight Edge
- PPE (goggles, dust masks, etc.)

Finishing molding

- For a perfect fit, use a T-Molding, a Reducer, End Cap and/or Stairnose moldings available in each (color) of the floor collection.
- **The T-Molding** allowed the transition from one room to another, if the thickness of the floors approximately the same. We suggest to use a T-Molding to achieve a harmonious connection between your two rooms.
- **The Reducer** is designed for the transition from one room to another with a different floor thickness between the two rooms. We suggest to use a Reducer to make a connection between your two different floor levels.
- **The End Cap** is designed to finish the space where flooring meets carpet, exterior doorways, fireplaces, ceramic tile or where quarter round and wall base cannot be used. Perfect accessory to give the final touch to your floor collection.
- **The Stairnose** will add the perfect finishing touch to your staircase, while staying in the harmony of your floor collection.

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Subfloor General
This product can be installed over a variety of subfloor surfaces including concrete on all grade levels, wood, and many existing hard surface floors. The subfloors must be clean, smooth, flat, solid (no movement), structurally sound and dry. Do not install planks over floors that are sloped for drainage, or over expansion joints or other moving joints in the substrate. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16" (5 mm) in a 10-foot (3 m) radius and/or 1/8" (3 mm) in a 6-foot (1.8 m) radius must be leveled with a Portland cement based patching compound. An uneven subfloor can contribute to multiple problems, including assembly of planks and post installation gapping of planks. All subfloors must be carefully checked for moisture problems and all problems corrected before installation. Construction dampness must be completely dried prior to installation. Care should be taken to keep moisture from collecting on either side of the floor to prevent the growth of unhealthy mold and mildew.

Concrete Subfloors
This product can be installed over concrete of all grade levels if a proper moisture barrier is used. A minimum 6 mil polyethylene moisture barrier must be used with all concrete subfloors. Any uneven areas greater than 3/16" (5 mm) in a 10-foot (3 m) radius and/or 1/8" (3 mm) in a 6-foot (1.8 m) radius must be leveled either by grinding or with a Portland cement based patching compound. Newly poured concrete floors must cure for a minimum of 90 days. All concrete slabs must be checked for moisture before installing material. Moisture emission from the subfloor cannot exceed 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869). Alternatively, relative humidity of the slab can be tested according to ASTM F2170. A result of up to 75% is acceptable per ASTM F2170. Note: Although initial moisture tests may indicate a dry slab, the moisture content of slabs may increase due to seasonal fluctuation or weather patterns. We will not assume responsibility for floorcovering failure due to hydrostatic pressure or moisture vapor emission greater than the numbers above. Holes, grooves, and other irregularities must be filled and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface. New construction must have an intact moisture vapor retarder (minimum 10 mil polyethylene membrane) present between the ground and the concrete. The final responsibility for ensuring any moisture or alkalinity issues are resolved prior to installation and for determining if the concrete is level enough for installation lies with the floor covering installer. This product should only be installed as floating over lightweight or acoustical concrete floors.

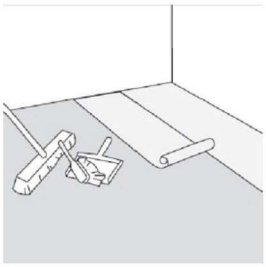
Wood Subfloors
Planks can be installed over a smooth, flat, level, wood subfloor, underlayment grade plywood, and any other underlayment recommended by the manufacturer for use with laminate floor. Subfloor should be flat within 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10 foot (3.05m) radius (1/8" in a 6 foot radius). Wood subfloors must be suspended at least 18" above the ground. Adequate cross-ventilation must be provided, and the ground surface of the crawl space should be covered with an intact vapor barrier.

Note
Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Indications of excessive deflection are uneven finish wear, fastener release, squeaking, compromised or damaged locking systems, sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure planks with excessive vertical movement or deflection. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will also have excessive vertical movement (deflection) after installation of the flooring is complete. Our warranty DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

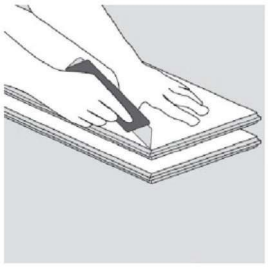
Existing Flooring
This product can be installed over a variety of finished floors including single layer resilient sheet flooring/tile, ceramic, marble, and terrazzo. The surface must be in good condition, free from all surface contaminants (wax, finish etc.) and show no signs of excessive moisture conditions, and the existing flooring must be well bonded to the substrate below. Large grout joints should be leveled so they are flush with the flooring surface. Ceramic, marble, and terrazzo must be scuffed to assure adhesion. Heavily cushioned vinyl floors, or vinyl floors consisting of multiple layers are NOT a suitable subfloor for installation.

Planning The Job
- Remove all existing transitions, quarter round and/or baseboard molding or cover base and undercut all door jambs/moldings the thickness of the flooring plus 1/16" (2 mm) prior to beginning installation.
- Determine how you want the flooring to run. Typically for plank products, the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions since it is a matter of preference.
- Determine your starting wall. Exteriors walls are often straighter than interior walls. If the starting wall is out of square, it will be necessary to scribe the first row to match the wall, allowing the opposite side of the row to present a true square base for the rest of the floor.
- To avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to do some pre-planning. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full planks will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks. The width of the border planks at the walls should ideally be the same on both sides of the room, however no planks should ever be less than 12" (30 cm) long or 2" (5 cm) wide.
- It is recommended to work from a minimum of 3 cartons to achieve a maximum color and shade blend.
- When using a handsaw cut on the decorative surface. If you are using a jig saw or circular saw, cut with the decorative side down to avoid chipping.
- Use expansion spacers to keep the flooring a minimum of 3/8" (10 mm) away from the walls and all vertical obstructions including cabinetry, stone fireplaces, pipes, heating vents, door frames and doorway transitions etc.
- Stagger all plank end joints a minimum 16" apart, avoiding stair step and/or H patterns. This will help to ensure the overall strength and integrity of the floor.
- Do not secure individual planks to the subfloor as it is designed to be a floating floor. Do not install cabinets or heavy load bearing fixtures on top of the flooring. Transition mouldings and baseboards cannot be tight to the floor but must allow the floor to move beneath them. Do not nail or screw transitions or baseboards through floating floor to the subfloor.

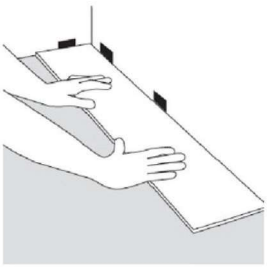
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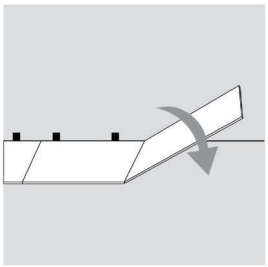
1) For planks without pre-attached cushion, install foam underlay. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the flooring panels. Underlay should be butted side by side with no overlap. Tape seams together. Do not install an additional underlayment under planks with pre-attached cushion.



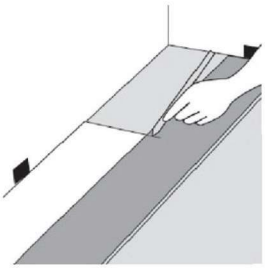
2) Remove the tongue, on the long side of the planks that face the wall on your first row. This is to ensure that the decorative surface of the flooring is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off. Seal the cut edges with a silicone sealant.



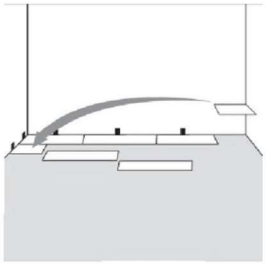
3) Start in a corner by placing the first plank with its trimmed side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 3/8" (10 mm) between the wall and the flooring.



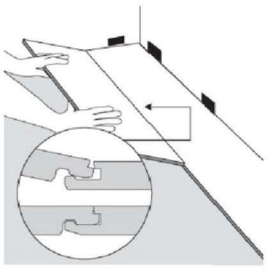
4) To attach your second plank, insert the short edge tongue of the second plank into the short edge groove of the first plank holding the second plank at an angle. Lock the short ends together by lowering the second plank into place. The planks should be flat to the floor.



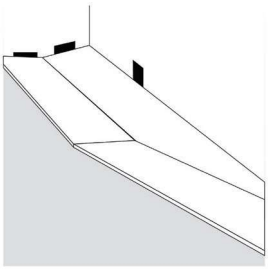
5) Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full plank. Fit the last plank by rotating the panel 180º with the pattern side upward, place beside row, mark and then saw off excess. Attach as described above.
If cutting with a jigsaw, the laminate surface should be turned down. If cutting with a hand saw, the laminate surface should be face up.



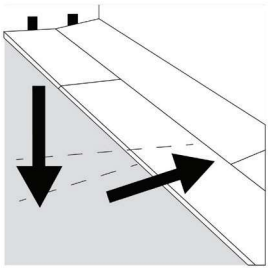
6) Begin the next row with the off-cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 12" (30 cm) long and joint offset in adjoining rows should be at least 16" (40 cm).



7) To start your second row, tilt and push the side tongue of the plank into the side groove of the very first plank at about 30º. Press the second planks down and the tongue will lock into the side groove.



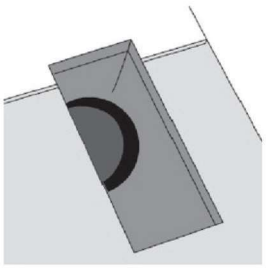
8) Attach the second plank of the new row by aligning the short side tongue of the second plank with the groove of the first plank while keeping the long side edge about a quarter inch away from the first row. Continue laying remaining panels in this manner.



9) Angle the two pieces up by about 20 degrees and then as the second-row plank into position tight to the first-row plank, using a tapping block if needed. Tap the plank three times, first where the two planks meet, second across from the joint in the previous row, and third at thefar side of the plank. Fold the row down when the whole row is complete.



10) To fit the last row, lay a plank on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another plank upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a straight edge. Don't forget to allow room for the expansion spacers. Cut the plank and attach into position.



11) Door frames and heatng vents also require expansion room. First cut the plank to the correct length. Then place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side.



12) You can undercut door frames by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames.

- Replace/install all moldings, baseboards etc. Ensuring that they are nailed into the wall not the floor, and that they not pinched tight to the flooring.
- Install appropriate transition moldings at the doorways, allowing a minimum 3/8" (10 mm) expansion space.
- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Heavy furniture should be equipped with suitable non-staining, furniture sliders. Non-staining felt protectors are recommended for table and chair legs to help protect the flooring.

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Maintanence

Proper maintenance and care for your floor is critically important to keep your floor looking beautiful for many years to come. Failure to follow proper maintenance and care instructions will not only lessen the lock and performance of your floor but will also void the warranty.

Step 1: Clean and vacuum your floor regular to remove any dust or grit that can accumulate on the surface or in the grooves of your floor. Unattended, dirt and grit can act like sandpaper when walked on and can damage your floor. Dirst and grit can also become imbedded in the grooves causing balck lines to form. Vacuuming removes these particles from your floor and avoids these potential issues.

Step 2: Use a liquid cleaner to remove any stubborn dirt or scuff marks. There are many laminate cleaners available and on the market. Be sure to choose a cleaner that is specifically recommended to clean lmainte floors and follow the included instructions to clean your floor.

Step 3: On a daily basis be sure to wipe of spills when they occur. Although there is a 36hr warranty of water resistant product, it is always better to wipe up spill earler than later.

Warranty

Water Resistance: During the warranty period, the structural integrity of this product, will not be adversley affected by standing water on the surface for up to 36hrs.

Wear Resistance: During the warranty period, the decorative wear layer will not wear through on the surface of the boards. The decorative layer must be worn through and this must be visible from a standing position and cover a minimum of 2 square centimetres. Glossreduction is not considered wear.

Fade Resistance: During the warranty period, the floor will not noticeably fade due to exposure to sunlight or an artificial light source

Stain Resistance: During the warranty period, the floor will not stain due to exposure to household products such as food, beverages, and appropriate cleaning products.

Joint Integrity: The joint locking systems are engineered to minimize and reduce gapping. During the warranty period, the flooring will not gap by more than 0.2mm as refected in seasonal fluctuations of natural products.

Manufacturing Defects: Lifetime warranty that this product will be free of manufacturing defects.

Exclusions and Conditions

- The warranty requires that the proper installation and maintenance equirements be followed and respected.
- The warranty is non transferable and extends to the original pruchaser.
- Take care to inspect boards prior to installation as the installation of noticeable defects are not covered under this.
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- Damage or discolouration from exposure to strong detergents, chemicals, paints, dyes, latex or rubber mats, fertilizers, etc...
- Discolouration caused by rubber pads, rubber wheels, rubber tires, rubber rollers, etc...
- Damage caused by dragging heavy objects like furniture across the floor with floor protections.
- Damage resulting from accidents.
- Damage from pet claws, teeth, and urine.
- Damage from abuse or improper use such as casters on furniture, rotating beeter bars on vacuum cleaners, burns, cuts, impacts from heavy and/ or sharp objects, narrow or stilletto heels, cleats and unprotected furniture legs.
- Damage caused by appliance or plumbing leaks.
- Construction damage due to other trades.
- Damage from hydro-static pressure and mosture from beneath the floor.

Disclaimers

- Failure to follow installation and maintenance procedures may result in voiding some or all of the warranty.
- If the product fails to perform as stated in the warranty, the manufacturer reserves the right to have the product inspected.
- If the product is deemed defective, the manufacturer reserves the right to either repair or replace the defective area with the same colour, design and grade of product if available.
- If the product is no longer available, the manufacturer will present a selection of equivalent material from which to select.
- If repair or replacement of an area is deemed as warranted, the rooms or areas to be replaced must be cleared of furniture , appliances and/or any objects on the floor.
- Reasonable labour costs will be considered if the floor was professionally installed.
- Any additional claims for loss of profit, moving or storage of furniture, appliances and valuables, hotel accomodations or meals are not covered by this warranty.

Notes

- Allowed warranty exclusions and limitations vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Therefore the application of this warranty may vary from state to state.