Style® SELECTIONS

WATER-RESISTANT LAMINATE FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDE

Tools & Materials

- Laminate installation kit (including spacers, tapping block, and pull bar)
- Premium grade laminate flooring underlayment (for flooring without an attached pad).
- Hammer
- Table or hand saw
- Carbide-tipped circular saw blades
- Vacuum
- Tape measure
- Duct tape
- Wood Glue (where modifying the profile is necessary)
- Sandpaper
- Level
- Age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier (6-mils) - for installations over concrete
- Moisture Meter
- Felt Furniture Pads
- 100% Silicone Sealant
- Caulking Gun
- 3/8" Foam Backer Rod
- Gloves
- Safety glasses
- Dust Mask or Respirator

Caution: use safety glasses, gloves, and a dust mask or respirator when cutting this product. During the cutting process, laminate may create wood dust; install in a well-ventilated area.

General Requirements for all Subflooring

Substrates should be structurally sound and immobile. Before installing flooring, ensure the subfloor is leveled within 3/16 inch in 10 feet. Irregularities in the subfloor should be smoothed using a leveling compound.

Wood

- Suspended wood subfloors should have a minimum of 18 inches of well-ventilated air space above the ground.
- The moisture content of the wood subfloor should not exceed 12%.

Concrete

- New concrete subflooring should be cured for at least 90 days prior to installation.
- A moisture test should be performed on the subfloor. Using a calcium chloride test, values for moisture vapor shall be <5 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. /24 hours per ASTM 1869.
- You must install a 6-mils age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier over the concrete subfloor. Tape seams with an adhesive tape. The vapor barrier should be installed up the wall by 1 inch.

Carpeting

- Remove all carpeting and padding prior to installation.

Vinyl / Sheet Vinyl

- If existing flooring has underlayment it must be removed.
- Vinyl must be well secured, level, and in good condition.
- If subfloor under the vinyl is concrete you must install a 6-mils age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier over the floor. Tape seams with an adhesive tape. The vapor barrier should be installed up the wall by 1 inch.

Radiant Heating Systems

- Laminate flooring can be installed on under-floor radiant heating systems if the heating element is installed into wood or concrete subfloors.
- Lower heating system to 60°F for 1 week before installation.
- After installation, slowly increase the temperature in increments of 10°F per day.
- Surface temperature must not exceed 85°F.
- Follow installation instructions for wood or concrete as outlined above.

Room & Material Preparation

- Remove all existing moulding.
- Allow laminate flooring to acclimate to room temperature (between 60°F -80°F) by placing the packaged flooring flat in the room for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Do not remove the plastic wrapping. **[1]**
- Flooring should be installed and maintained in a climate controlled environment with ambient temperature between 60°F - 80°F and a relative humidity of 35% - 70%.
- Check door clearances and make necessary adjustments before laying the flooring. Door mouldings (jambs) should be undercut to accommodate the thickness of the flooring as well as the underlayment (whether pre-attached or installed separately). **[2]**
- For product without underlayment; install premium grade laminate flooring underlayment per the manufacturer's instructions. DO NOT install more than one layer of underlayment. Doing so will void the warranty.

Important Information Before Starting

- If room has electric baseboard heaters, leave a minimum of 1/2 inch between the surface of the flooring and the bottom of the heaters, allowing heat to circulate.
- Use T-mouldings for rooms wider or longer than 40 feet and openings less than 4 feet.
- Determine which direction to lay the planks. If installing in narrow hallways or small rooms, the area will appear larger if flooring is laid parallel to the longest wall.
- Inspect each plank for defects prior to installation. Do not install defective planks; installation of defective planks implies acceptance of material. Work out of several cartons at the same time to ensure a mixture of color and shade.
- A 3/8" spacer must be used along any vertical surface. When the project is completed these spacers will be removed leaving a 3/8" expansion gap. This gap is necessary because laminate expands and contracts with temperature and humidity changes. The gap provided will prevent your flooring from being damaged during those changes.
- To provide a flush edge, any plank edge that would contact a spacer can have its profile cut off.