

# INSTALLATION GUIDE

Thank you for choosing our flooring. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years. Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void the warranty.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

All wood-based products, even those specifically designed to have increased resistance to moisture, are hygroscopic (they will react to the moisture in the environment) and as a result will expand or contract accordingly. All sources of under floor moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. Although this product has been designed with bathroom installation in mind excessive wetting is to be avoided and water spillages dried immediately. It is important that you check each plank for any manufacturing defects. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed.

## I. PREPARATIONS

- Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/ damage, including defects or discrepancies in color or gloss; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
- It is preferable to lay boards perpendicular to the window, following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, make sure to always work from 3 to 4 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.
- Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.
- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport and handle the cartons in a manner to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on edge.
- Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle, get assistance.
- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 10% of flooring for cutting allowance.
- The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. It is not to be installed in areas that are exposed to the elements, such as outdoor areas, semi-covered / “alfresco” outdoor areas, porches, etc.
- Keep the boards in room temperature for at least 48 hours in unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be between 65-85 °F / 18-30 °C and the relative humidity should be maintained between 30-65% before and during the installation.
- After installation, make sure that the flooring is not exposed to temperatures less than 60 °F / 15 °C or greater than 95 °F / 35 °C at 30-65 % relative humidity.
- For floor surfaces exceeding 4000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 400 m<sup>2</sup> and or lengths exceeding 65 ft / 20 m and overlaps to new rooms and floor surface which do not join symmetrically, use transition moldings leaving min ½” / 10 mm gaps.

## II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

- The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3/16” / 5 mm within 10 ft / 3 m radius.
- The product can be installed on substrates with grout joints or grooves if these are less than 3/16” / 5 mm in width and 3/16” / 4 mm in depth. Depressions, deep grooves, expansion joints and other subfloor imperfections that do not meet this requirement must be filled with approved patching & leveling compound prior to installation.
- Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, any foreign matter and contaminants.
- A vapor barrier to be installed over concrete substrates. In the case installation is done over a wood substrate on or below-grade a vapor barrier must be installed if there is not a vapor barrier existing in a well-ventilated crawl space. Excessive subfloor moisture can be a breeding ground for mold, mildew and fungus – all of which can contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment, a minimum 6 mil / 0.15 mm plastic poly sheeting should be used as a moisture barrier.
- The subfloor must be dry. Comply with Mc requirements and tested as per one of below methods:
  - C Concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lb/3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 100 m<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours. This can be measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869).
  - 90 % RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9.
  - Max. 2.5 % moisture content (CM method / ASTM F2659).

**Note:** It may not be the floor covering installer’s responsibility to conduct these tests. It is, however, the floor covering installer’s responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted, and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering. When moisture tests are conducted, it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test. The floor should not be installed on subfloor with excessive moisture emission.

## WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.
- Timber subfloors must have no more than 12% Mc (moisture vapor content).
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.
- Lay the flooring crossways to the existing floorboards.
- All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.
- Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" / 25 mm total thickness, with at least 18" / 45 cm well ventilated air space beneath.

## CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue.
- The subfloor must be dry. Comply with Mc requirements and tested as per one of below methods:
  - Concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lb/3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 100 m<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours. This can be measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869).
  - 90 % RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9.
  - Max. 2.5 % moisture content (CM method / ASTM F2659).
- A minimum 6 mil / 0.15 mm plastic poly sheeting should be used as a moisture barrier between the concrete subfloor and the flooring.

## DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Any type of carpet.
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.
- Any type of floating floor.
- Hardwood flooring / wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
- If the floor has a pre-attached underlayment, the use of an additional underlayment could damage the locking mechanism and will void warranty.
- Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.
- With a floating floor, you must always ensure you leave a 1/2" / 13 mm gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc. When installing around pipes, drill the holes 3/4" / 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipes.
- Do not install heavy fixed objects such as kitchen cabinets directly over the floor planks. The floating installation requires that the planks can move freely.

- Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 12" / 30 cm apart. Do not install over expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 12" / 30 cm at beginning or end of rows.
- Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 2" / 50 mm. If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.

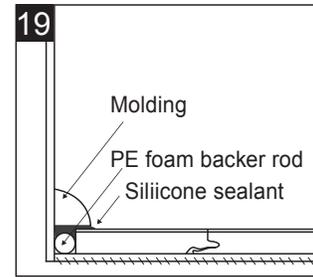
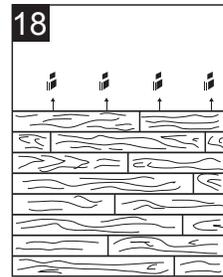
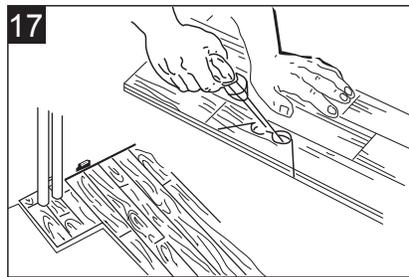
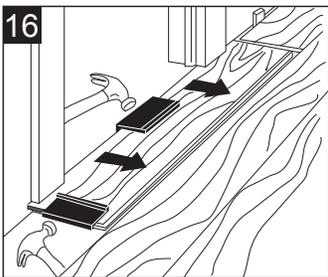
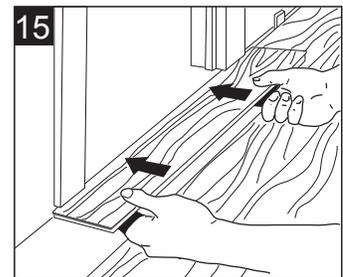
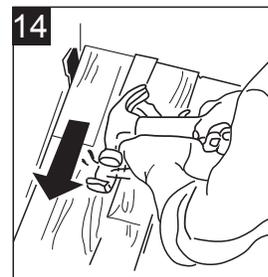
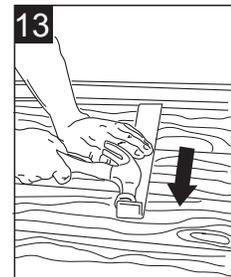
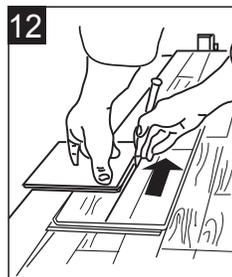
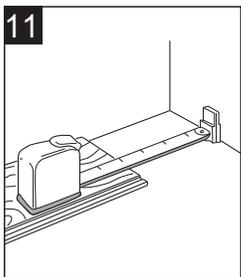
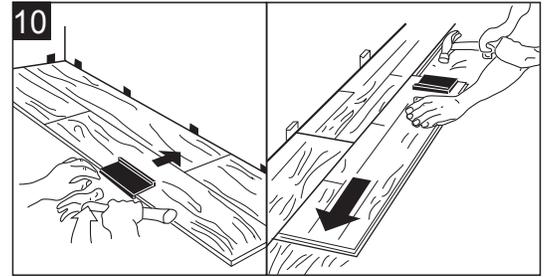
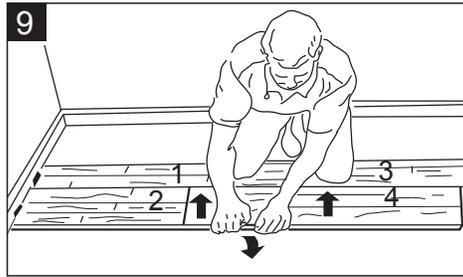
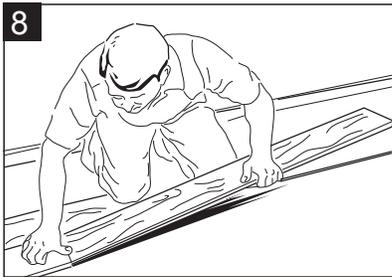
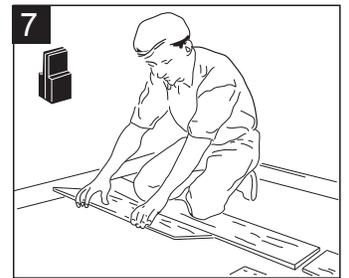
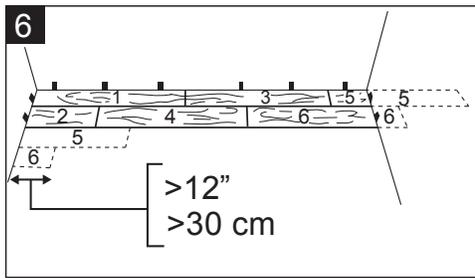
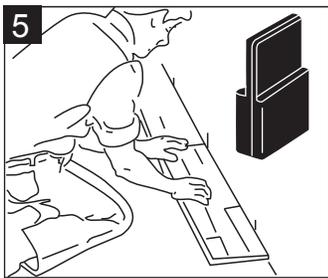
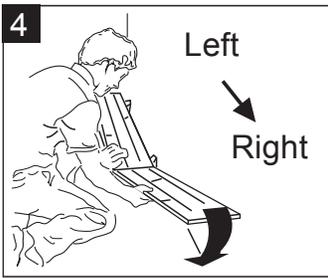
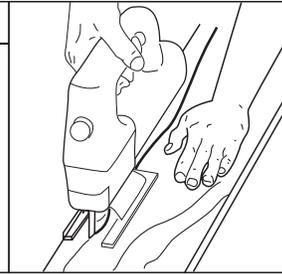
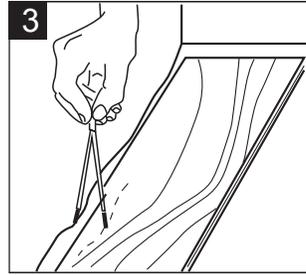
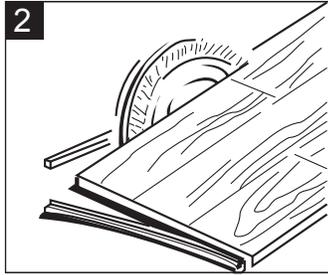
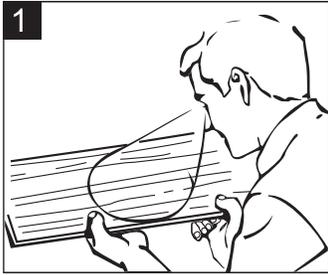
## IMPORTANT NOTICE

- In-floor Radiant Heat: due to the speed of sudden temperature changes, which has the potential to negatively affect laminate flooring construction, it is not recommended to install over any electrical radiant heating system. Installation over electrical radiant heating systems will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Below instructions are for radiant heating systems using water.
- Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 81 °F / 27 °C. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.
- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Operate the system at maximum capacity for 48 hours to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system at least 4 days before installation.
- The maximum moisture content of the screed is 1.5 % (CM method).
- Make sure that the temperature in the room is maintained consistent between 65-85 °F / 18-30 °C and the relative humidity should be maintained between 30-65 % before and during the installation.
- Once the installation is completed, the heating system should be turned on, at the ambient temperature and increased gradually 9 °F / 5 °C degree increments every 12 hours until reaching normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

**TIP:** The best idea to maximize the results of your heating system is to have "ON" times with a comfort temperature and "OFF" times with setback temperatures which is normally 8 °F / 4 °C lower than your comfort temperature. The setback temperatures are particularly important as these won't let the temperature of your room drop too much, meaning it is much quicker to heat your room back to comfort levels when it's needed.

III. INSTALLATION

**TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED:** Foam Underlay (if not pre-attached) / Spacers / Saw / Adhesive Tape / Min 6 mil / 0.15 mm (or thicker) polyurethane vapor barrier for crawl space and concrete floor installations / Ruler / Pencil / Tape Measure / Construction Adhesive / Tapping Block / Rubber Mallet



1. Inspect each plank. Floor should be installed blending planks from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color and shade mixture throughout the installation.
2. For the first row along straight walls, remove the tongue on all long side joints and on the short side of the first plank only.
3. For uneven walls, trace contour on tongue-side of plank and cut.
4. Assemble the first row, with the tongue-side toward the wall. Insert the end tongue into the end groove and ro-tate downward to assemble. Keep the planks aligned and the joints closed.
5. Place 13 mm (1/2") thick spacers between the sides and the ends of the planks and the walls. This sets the required expansion gap on all sides and should be maintained around the entire perimeter of the installation.
6. The first piece of each row must be at least 12" long. Start all new rows with pieces longer than 12" (30 cm) trimmed from previous rows. Ensure at least a 12" (30 cm) end joint offset.
7. At a slight angle, insert tongue of plank 2 into the groove of plank 1 until the laminate edges meet, and then ro-tate down until the joints lock.
8. Join the short end of the plank first. There will be a gap on the long side joints when the plank is rotated down.
9. Raise the outside edge of the plank upward approximately 1". Maintain this angle as you push the plank in until the laminate edges meet. Rotate downward on the plank until the joint locks. Repeat these steps to complete the installation.

**Installation Tip:** Place a carton of planks across the end of the row being installed to keep installed planks in place during installation.

10. Alternate Tap Method: Align the tongues into the grooves of the long and short sides of the planks. Install the long side first by placing a tapping block no closer than 8" from both ends and tap lightly along the long side until the joint is closed tightly. Then tap the end using the tapping block into a locked position.

**Note:** Uneven tapping or use of excessive force may damage the joint. (Move this note below last paragraph)

11. Ensure there will be a 13 mm (1/2") gap (after the joint is closed) to the wall for expansion.
12. For the last row, align the plank to be used on top of the 2nd to last row. Using a full width plank as a spacer, trace wall contour and cut plank.
13. For the last row, install the long side tongue into the groove with the end joint aligned. Using a pull bar and hammer, work evenly along the length of the plank and lightly tap the joint closed.
14. After tapping the long side joint closed, tap the short side closed, using a tapping block or a pull bar.

### Installation Under Doorway Frames

15. Slide plank under pre-cut door frame.
16. Tap the long side joint closed first. Then tap the end joint closed.

### Installation around Fixed Objects (such as Pipes)

17. Allow 1/2" / 13 mm expansion space around pipes or other fixed objects.
18. Remove all spacers.

### For Bathroom, Laundry Room, or Commercial Installations

It is important to seal any cut planks to ensure superior and warranted performance. When a flooring plank is cut to fit (either end cuts or side cuts), a sealant is always required around the perimeter of the installation.

- Fill the expansion spaces with a 1/2" / 13 mm compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with a flexible 100% silicone sealant to the entire perimeter of the installation. Do not use an acrylic sealant.
- Prior to installing moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the flooring surface.
- Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.
- Apply silicone sealant at connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.
- Branded and generic silicone tubes are available in any local home center or hardware location.
- If a watertight installation is required, apply a hard-setting waterproof wood adhesive bead across the bottom of the tongue on both long and short side prior to installing the floorboard. Avoid using adhesive excessively and be sure to immediately wipe away any excess that comes out to the floor's surface.

### IV. MAINTENANCE

Clean the floor regularly with a vacuum cleaner or dry mop. If necessary, the floor may be cleaned with a wet mop and a laminate cleaner. DO NOT use an excessively wet mop that will puddle or leave moisture standing on the floor.

Wipe up spills immediately to avoid leaving puddles or pools of liquid on the flooring.

To protect the floor from sand we recommend you to using doormats at entries (but do not use mats with a rubber backing).

Place felt floor protectors under the legs of move-able furniture. Chair casters should be rubber, not plastic or metal.

DO NOT use rotating beater bars, floor scrubbers, buffers, or similar products.

Use appropriate window coverings, such as drapes, window treatments, or UV-tinting on windows, to protect the product from direct sunlight as long-term exposure to direct sunlight can potentially lead to discoloration.