

# INSTALLATION GUIDE Laminate



**NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.  
IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY.**

## **BASE FLOOR**

The ideal conditions are 45%-60% of relative humidity. If rooms have a higher level of humidity, or if the home has a crawlspace, cellar, or is considered a cottage, please consult a construction specialist in your area.

### **A) Concrete Floors**

- The surface must be absolutely level, dry, and clean. Differences in the floor level of more than 1/8" per 5ft (3.12mm per 1.52m) must be leveled.
- Use a vapor barrier at least 0.006" (0.15mm) thick. Edges should overlap by 8" (200mm).
- Ensure that 1" (25mm) of the vapor barrier is up on the walls.
- Lay down flooring.

### **B) Wood and Other Hard Surfaces**

- The surface must be dry, clean, smooth, and level. Slopes steeper than 1/8" per 5 ft. (3.12mm per 1.52m) must be leveled.
- Lay down flooring.

### **C) Carpet and Under-padding**

- Remove both before laying down the floor.
- Proceed as outlined in A or B.

### **D) Vinyl Floor Surfaces**

- If the vinyl is on top of concrete, a moisture barrier must be placed on top of the vinyl before installation.
- Lay down flooring.

### **E) Radiant Heat Floors**

- Turn heating down to 60°F (15° C) one week before laying down the floor. Do not turn off the heating if the outside temperature is below 32°F (0°C).
- It is important to use a vapor barrier at least 0.006" (0.15mm) thick. Edges should overlap by 8" (200mm).
- Lay down flooring.
- Keep the temperature below 80°F (27°C) at all times.

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## PREPARATION

1. Leave closed packages in a horizontal position in the room 48 hours prior to installation.
2. Sub floor needs to be prepared (as outlined above).
3. There must be at least 1/2" (12.5mm) between the surface of the floor and the bottom of the electrical baseboard heater to allow heat to circulate.
4. Verify door and frame clearances and make required adjustments before laying down the floor. Cut the door molding with a saw to allow planks to slide underneath it. (See Figure A).
5. Carefully remove existing baseboards.
6. Decide which direction the planks should be laid. As a rule, the planks should be laid perpendicular to the wall that has a window in it. To make the room appear larger, it may be preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest wall.
7. Before installing, check planks for defects such as chips, colour, or sheen differences under good light conditions. Check that the channel is clean and free of debris. Damaged planks must be replaced before laying down the floor.
8. A minimum expansion area is required around the perimeter of the room as well as any fixed object (i.e. a door frame, fireplace, mantle, etc.) Minimum 3/8" (10mm) for rooms up to 25ft. (7.6m) long or wide, or minimum 5/8" for rooms greater than 25ft (7.6m).



## TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED

Hand or power saw (fine-toothed blade), chalk line/string, spacers, set square, vapor barrier: min. 0.006"/0.15mm (for installation on concrete and radiant heat floors), pencil, tape measure, hammer, utility knife.

**NOTE:** Safety glasses and gloves should be worn at all times. Do not use any installation accessories made for other types of laminate flooring.

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## INSTALLATION

**THIS PRODUCT IS PRIMARILY MADE OF WOOD MATERIAL AND NEEDS ROOM TO EXPAND AND CONTRACT. DO NOT ATTACH THE FLOOR TO ANY SURFACE. ALWAYS ALLOW AN EXPANSION GAP AT THE PERIMETER AND AROUND ALL STRUCTURAL OBSTACLES.**

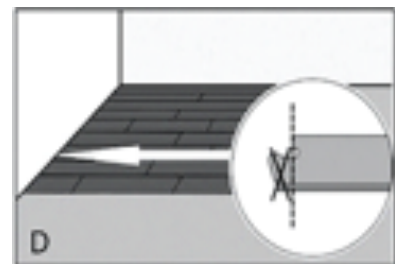
1. The planks click together at a 45° angle on the length side, the ends of the planks simply fold down to join (See Figure B).
2. Measure the room to establish its square-ness and the width of the last row. If the width of the last row is less than 2" (50mm), not including the bottom lip of the groove, the first row will have to be cut accordingly. The tongue on the first row of planks and the bottom lip of the groove side on the last row of planks should also be removed. Use T-moldings if the floor is wider or longer than 33ft (10m). (See Figure C).



3. If the wall along the first row of planks is irregular, scribe the planks to fit the wall and cut.
4. When cutting a plank, if using a portable electric saw (jigsaw), the decorative surface must be face up. If using a circular table saw, the decorative surface must be face down.



5. Always lay planks from left to right, with the tongue side against the starting wall. Always place a 3/8"-5/8" (10-15mm) spacer between the wall or any fixed object (ie: door frame, fireplace, mantle, etc) and the plank on either side of each joint and at the far ends of each plank.



6. The last plank in a row must be at least 12" (300mm) long. Always remove the groove on the last plank. Measure the first row before installing and if the last plank is at least 12" long, cut the first plank. Install the first row.
7. For the first plank of the second row, use the cut plank left over from the first row (provided it is more than 12" [300mm] long). If it is less than 12" (300mm) long, use a new plank, cutting it so it is at least 12" (300mm) away from the joint of the first plank on the first row. Always remove the bottom lip of the groove and the tongue from the ends of the planks against the walls. (See Figure D).
8. Continue laying down the floor from left to right. For a stronger and more natural looking floor, make sure to stagger the joints in each row by at least 8".

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9. Remove the spacers and install moldings and trims. Never nail the moldings to the laminate floor.
  
10. If replacing a plank, unclick your laminate floor beginning with the last plank installed until you reach the problem area. Replace the damaged plank(s) and re-install your floor planks in the exact order they were removed.

**FloorScore® is the most recognized indoor air quality (IAQ) certification standard for hard surface flooring materials, adhesives, and underlayments. FloorScore(R) qualifies for many green building schemes including LEED v4.1, WELL, BREEAM, CHPS, and Green Globes.**