



## concepts installation instructions

### installer/owner responsibility:

**Relative Humidity (RH) requirements:** Laminate floors require a Relative Humidity of 35% - 50% continuously throughout the entire year. Installation over in-floor radiant heat requires a Relative Humidity of 40% - 55% continuously throughout the entire year.

- It is the installer/owner's responsibility to maintain the required RH within the recommended range throughout the year. Failure to maintain the required RH may damage the floor and void product warranty.
- Before starting installation, it is important you read all instructions and warranty information. By starting installation of this product you are agreeing that you have read and understand all installer/owner's requirements and responsibilities and are aware that deviating from the instructions and recommendations in this installation guide may result in voiding the product warranty.
- Verify color and finish before installation. Once the floor is installed, it is deemed to have been inspected, approved, and accepted.
- It is the sole responsibility of the installer/owner, prior to installation, to assure that the planned installation area is suitable for laminate flooring and meets local building codes. Confirm that all subflooring is dry, sound, flat, and meets or exceeds all industry standards/local building codes, as well as the recommendations listed herein. Do not install in a bathroom or kitchen (or any area prone to moisture).
- The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job area/environment and subflooring requirements. If the installation is for a newly built home or construction, the installer/owner must ensure all windows and doors are installed and that wall and floor boards are completely dry and that the home's HRV/heating/air-conditioning system is functional and running at living conditions to which the floor will be maintained. It is recommended that flooring be the last stage in a construction project.
- The installer/owner assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include: print/color/texture, factory finish, and milling. If the product is not acceptable, DO NOT INSTALL IT. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and quality accepted.
- If you wish to install over a radiant heating system consult with the manufacturer of your radiant heating system to ensure that it is compatible with engineered hardwood flooring. Temperature must never exceed 79°F (26°C) and changes in temperature settings must be gradual. Rapid temperature changes and/or excessive heat will damage the flooring and/or the finish. Humidity must be maintained between 40% and 55% continuously throughout the entire year. It is the responsibility of installer/owner to confirm the suitability of the radiant heating system for use with this product. Any damage to the floor caused by the radiant heating system will not be covered by the product warranty.

## Suggested Tools for Installation:

-  Safety Glasses
-  Saw
-  Chalk Line
-  Tape Measure
-  6' Straight Edge (or level)
-  Shims
-  Pry-bar
-  Hammer

## Pre-installation:

-  When calculating flooring square footage requirements, allow a minimum of an additional 10% for cuts, waste, grading, and defects. If installing a diagonal or other special pattern, allow for 10% additional materials.
-  Acclimatize engineered flooring for a minimum of 48 hours. We recommend you leave the products in their original packaging (straps left on each carton) until time of installation at a temperature of 68°F to 79°F (20°C to 26°C) at 35 to 50% relative humidity in the area in which the flooring will be installed. Protect flooring from excessive heat/cold or sources of high humidity during storage.

## Subfloor Requirements:

-  All sub-floors must be clean, flat, and dry prior to installation, regardless of installation method. Floors installed over non-flat subfloors may squeak and/or deflect when walked on. Sweep or vacuum your subfloor immediately prior to installation ensuring there is no debris or grit, as it may interfere with installation.
-  **Wooden subfloors:** Recommended ¾" CDX plywood, OSB, or boards (follow NWFA guidelines)
  - o must be flat
  - o High or low areas exceeding 3/16" per 10' (5mm per 3m) or 1/8" per 6' (3mm per 2m) must be corrected
  - o Sand down high areas, fill low areas
  - o Nail or screw down any loose areas and replace any damaged sheathing (damaged, swollen or delaminating)
-  **Concrete:** most concrete subfloors (slabs) are not flat and must be leveled before installation.
  - o In all cases, verify the subfloor using a 10' long straightedge to locate high and low areas; low areas should be filled with a self-leveling compound
  - o The moisture content of the concrete subfloor should not exceed 5%

## Underlayment:

-  Floating installations **require** an underlayment. Use an approved underlayment as recommended by your local dealer suitable for your chosen installation method.
-  Concrete on-grade slab/basement applications: If installing over concrete slabs, you must use a high-performance vapor barrier (6 mil poly or equivalent) to protect your floor from slab-borne moisture. Failure to use an appropriate vapor barrier over concrete slabs in these cases may void the warranty. In addition to moisture protection, your choice of vapor barrier should also offer you acoustic performance.
-  Condos, two-story homes, or buildings: In all cases, the use of an approved acoustic membrane is recommended to minimize the transfer of sound from level-to-level and improve the comfort level of the floor. Many municipalities have building codes for acoustic membranes; consult your local building codes or condo association for FIIC and STC acoustic rating requirements.

## Installation:

-  In all cases, click laminate flooring should be installed perpendicular to the floor joists, unless you have added an extra sub-floor layer to stiffen the sub-floor to reduce sagging.
-  Calculate the width of the install area and adjust the start/finish row boards to be at least ½ a board wide.
-  Stagger your end-joints by a minimum of 16" and avoid "H" patterns and "stair-steps".

## CLICK FLOATING GENERAL INSTALLATION INFORMATION:

-  For a click floating installation, follow the directives noted above regarding sub-floor preparation.
-  Floating installations may be made over most subfloors including: Plywood or OSB, ceramic/porcelain tile, smooth stone, marble, granite, and linoleum. Do **NOT** install over carpet.
-  For installation over concrete, you must first install a moisture barrier underlay.
-  For installation over an existing hardwood or engineered floor, you must ensure the old floor is properly secured down. Install the new floor perpendicular to the old floor. If you choose to install the new floor in the same direction, you must install a minimum 3/8" (10mm) approved underlayment over the top of the old floor for stabilization. Also, if the old floors are wider than 6" (150mm), it must be covered with a minimum 3/8" (10mm) approved underlayment for stabilization.
-  Set up starting line for the first row by measuring the width of the plank. Add 3/8" (10mm) to 5/8" (15mm) to this number and mark the floor at each end of your starting wall, approximately 6" (150mm) away from the corners.
-  Installation in rooms over 20' (6m) wide and /or over 40' (12m') long: if the width of the room exceeds 20' (6m) (across width of boards) and or 40' (12m) long (across length of boards), you need to install a T-molding mid-room to allow the floor to naturally expand or contract with seasonal changes in humidity.
-  Using a chalk-line, carefully snap a line between these two points. Check to make sure there will be approximately 3/8" (10mm) to 5/8" (15mm) between the edge of your first row of planks and the wall. This space allows for slight expansion of the laminate and will be covered by the baseboard/quarter-round.
-  Working from left to right, lay out first row of boards, the short tongue should be facing the wall. First board should start 3/8" (10mm) from the wall. Cut the last board to finish 3/8" (10mm) from opposite wall. We recommend you use temporary shims to keep the floor away from the walls, as the floor will shift during installation due to it being a floating floor. Place the shims every 2-3' (60-90 cm) along the starting wall, plus at the end of each of the starting rows so boards do not shift when set into place.
-  Assemble the end joints by inserting the tongue on the short side of the panel at an angle of approximately 25 degrees, and lower it into place. Continue in this manner until the first row is complete.
-  To start the second row, use the remainder of the last plank of the first row if it is longer than 12" (30cm) long, otherwise, cut a new plank in half and proceed. To ensure structural integrity of your floor, it is mandatory to **ALWAYS STAGGER THE END JOINTS FROM ROW TO ROW BY AT LEAST 16" (40CM)**.
-  **The preferred installation method** is to assemble the end joints of the second row completely from left to right. Then, angle the tongue on the entire length of the second row into the groove on the long side of the planks of the first row.
-  **An alternative method of installation:** Install one board at a time, from left to right. Using a sacrificial cut piece with the profile that locks into the right end of the board, gently tap on the sacrificial cut piece until the ends of the planks lock together and repeat for the rest of row. Do NOT use too much force when tapping the boards together, as this may damage the locking profile. For final board in row, use a pry-bar to pull it tight and lock the end profile. Do NOT strike directly on the locking profile to tap the boards together, as this may damage the locking profile.
-  In the case where you are unable to angle panels (e.g., under a doorframe or radiator), you must glue on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the panels gently with the use of a pull bar and a hammer.
-  If a doorframe must be undercut, lay a plank of flooring next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the doorjamb with a saw, then slide the flooring plank under the doorjamb with the decorative pattern facing upward. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the doorjamb and recommended expansion gap must be respected.

- 🪵 Ensure there is a minimum 3/8" (10mm) gap around the entire floor perimeter. Measure and cut the last boards to fit so that there is a minimum 3/8" (10mm) gap along the last wall.
- 🪵 Remove all temporary shims, sweep & vacuum immediately.

**Note:** you **must** use a "T" molding transition strip between rooms. Failure to do so may cause damage to the floor and will void the warranty.

### Finishing Details:

- 🪵 It is recommended that you sweep & vacuum the area immediately after installation to remove potential damaging grit and debris. A further cleaning with an approved pre-finished laminate floor cleaner is also recommended, as required. Do not wax or use cleaning products that contain surfactants. Never wet mop or steam clean the floor.
- 🪵 Baseboards and quarter rounds: replace or install new matching baseboards and quarter rounds in all areas. If baseboards and quarter rounds require finishing, it is best to pre-finish them in a separate area to avoid spilling on the laminate floor. Baseboards are to be nailed into the wall and quarter rounds into the baseboards. DO NOT nail either of these into the laminate flooring.
- 🪵 Transition pieces: if you have removed any transition pieces and not covered their place with laminate flooring, reinstall them immediately.