



## socal installation instructions

**Installation Instructions for Products with the Angle / Drop Locking System**  
Applicable Collections: Outer Banks 8mm, SoCal 8mm, Dockside 8mm, Homeland 10mm, Heritage 10mm, Timber 10mm & Nature 12mm

### Before Installation:

- 🦋 Read these detailed installation instructions
- 🦋 Material and tool requirements:
  - Estimate square footage and add 10%
  - Select underlayment. (Over concrete subfloors, gypsum subfloors, or moisture prone areas, the underlayment must have a vapor barrier. If underlayment does not have a vapor barrier, a separate vapor barrier must be used.)
  - Spacers, pull bar, circular saw with a fine toothed blade, hammer, pencil, tape measure, straight edge, and wood glue.
- 🦋 Acclimation:
  - Store unopened boxes in the room where the floor is to be installed for a minimum 48 hours, prior to installation. Once boxes are opened, they should be installed immediately.
- 🦋 Please inspect the flooring panels carefully for any possible damage or defects before installation. No complaints regarding visual defects will be accepted after the flooring is installed. If you discover apparent defects in the flooring panels, you should stop the installation immediately and call us at 1.844.687.7884
- 🦋 ecofinishes laminate flooring is not suitable for wet areas.

### Installation Instructions:

- 🦋 Never use a tapping block or installation kit designed for other laminate floors. Using these tools will damage your floor and VOID your warranty.
- 🦋 ecofinishes laminate flooring is designed to be installed floating. Under no circumstances should flooring panels be glued, nailed, screwed, or otherwise adhered (e.g.: door stopper, closet track, etc.) to the subfloor in any way.
- 🦋 ecofinishes laminate flooring needs room to expand. An expansion gap of 3/8" – 5/8" should always be left around the perimeter of the room (e.g.: between the flooring panels and the walls or any other fixed elements, such as heating pipes or door jambs). The expansion gap can be covered up with baseboards, quarter round, or the appropriate floor molding. T-moldings, at least 1" in width, must be used between adjoining rooms, hallways and doorways. T-moldings must be used in the middle of rooms measuring 33' in the direction of the panel length and more than 26' in the direction of the panel width.
- 🦋 Installation should be carried out at a room temperature of at least 65° F and a floor temperature of at least 59° F. The relative humidity in the room should be 50% - 70%. The temperature difference between the flooring panels and the subfloor should not exceed +/- 3°.
- 🦋 The subfloor must be dry, level, clean and firm. Verify that concrete slabs are dry according to ASTM F1869, with a maximum moisture emission rate of 5 lbs per 1000 sq/ft per 24 hours, or in accordance with Calcium Chloride Method  $\leq$  2%. Differences in floor level more than 1/8" per 3' span must either be sanded down or filled in with a suitable filling compound. Carpet is not a suitable underlayment.

- 🦋 For installation below grade, on a concrete subfloor, or on a gypsum subfloor an underlayment with a vapor barrier must be used. The seams of the underlayment moisture barrier should overlap by at least 4". And must be taped with moisture resistant tape along the length of the overlap. For more information regarding vapor emissions, please contact us at 1.844.687.7884.
- 🦋 For acoustic installation, an appropriate underlayment should be used. Underlayment maximum thickness under ecofinishes laminate flooring is 4mm, and a minimum density of 3.5 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>.
- 🦋 Flooring panels should preferably be installed longitudinally (lengthwise) to the main light source.
- 🦋 Avoid narrow pieces at the finish wall. Measure the distance between the starting wall and the finish wall. Divide this number by the width of the plank, the remainder must be greater than 2 ½".
- 🦋 For information on radiant heated floors call 1.844.687.7884 for further information. Radiant heated subfloors should never exceed 79° F.
- 🦋 Your ecofinishes laminate flooring can be walked on immediately following installation. As soon as part of the flooring is installed, the furniture can be moved onto the finished surface.

### Assembling Flooring Panels:

1. Install appropriate underlayment as per the underlayment manufacturer's guidelines.
2. For the first row of panels cut off the tongue of the plank. Lay the first plank with the trimmed tongue edge facing the wall while taking special care to maintain proper expansion as explained in point # 3 above.
3. Assemble the end joints by lowering the tongue of the plank into the groove from top to bottom on the short side of the panel. Glue the short sides of the panels on the first and last rows and weight them down for approximately 1 hour until the glue sets.
4. To start the second row, use the remainder of the last plank of the first row if it is longer than 30cm (12") 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".
5. Angle the tongue of the long side of the panel into the groove of the first panel of the previous row at an angle of approximately 25° and lower the panel to lock it into place.
6. In the case where you are unable to drop the panels (e.g. under a doorframe) you must cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a wood chisel. Run a bead of glue on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the panels gently with the use of a pull bar and hammer.
7. If a doorframe must be undercut, lay a panel of flooring next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the doorjamb with a saw, and then slide the flooring panel under the doorjamb with the decorative side facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the doorjamb and ecofinishes' recommended expansion gap must be respected.
8. Continue the installation in this manner until you get to the last row. For the last row, measure the exact width required. To do this, lay a panel of flooring on the second to last row. Then lay a second panel of flooring on top of this panel with the tongue side of the plank touching the wall. This will allow you to determine the width needed for the final row. Make a mark with a pencil and cut with a saw along this mark. Expansion gap must be respected.