

## GLUELESS LAMINATE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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If you have questions about this product, product warranty, or difficulty installing the product call our **Technical Support** at **1.800.441.7429**.

### INSTALLATION:

- Step 1 – Using a carbide-tipped circular saw blade, remove both the short and long side tongues from the plank (Fig. 1) to allow room for spacers (Fig. 2). Do not trim the groove sides (Fig. A).
- Step 2 – Trim the long side tongue from each plank needed to complete the first row; install the planks from left to right. Place 3/8 inch spacers between the wall and the cut edge of the planks to ensure a 3/8 inch space along the perimeter (Fig. 2).
- Step 3 – Adjoin the planks by using a tapping block or scrap piece as shown (Fig. 3) and gently tap until the planks are joined. Continue this process until the final plank for the row is needed. Refer to 'CUTTING A PLANK' before proceeding to step 4.
- Step 4 – Begin installing the second row by angling the plank to allow the tongue to slip into the groove of the plank in row 1 (Plank C Fig. 4). Maintain inward pressure (towards the previous row) while gently moving the plank up and down as you slowly push the plank to the floor (Fig. 4A, 4B, 4C). Do not force the plank to the floor if the tongue is only partially inserted into the groove.
- Step 5 – Install the next plank by placing it near the previous plank in the row and laying it flat to the floor as described in Step 4 while leaving a small gap (2 – 3 mm) between the short ends of planks C and D (Fig. 5).
- Step 6 – Once the plank is lying flat, gently tap the plank as described in Step 3 to join planks C and D (Fig. 6).
- Step 7 – Continue laying the floor from left to right, as described in steps 1 through 6 (Fig. 7). Remove the short side tongue from any full planks used in starting a new row.
- Step 8 – Trim the planks to be used in the final row to the desired width while taking into consideration the necessary gap of 3/8 inch needed between the planks and the wall. Install the final row as described in the previous steps (Fig. 8).

### CUTTING A PLANK:

- Step 1 – When cutting a plank used for completing a row be sure to allow for the proper 3/8 inch gap once the plank is installed. (Fig. 9A)
- Step 2 – After cutting the plank install the long side of the plank as described in step 4. (Fig. 9B)
- Step 3 – Use a pull bar in place of a tapping block to close the gap between the two planks to complete the row (Fig. 9C). If the remainder of the cut plank is a minimum of 12 inches long it may be used to start the next row.

### INSTALLING AROUND MOLDINGS AND DOORJAMBS:

In challenging areas such as door moldings where planks can't be installed at an angle it may be necessary to modify the joint. Begin by removing a portion of the groove (Fig. 10) from the planks being fitted to in the previous row by either planing or sanding. Once the material is removed apply a small amount of laminate glue to the top of the subsequent planks tongue and install it by sliding it on the floor into place. Wipe up excess laminate glue with a damp cloth and warm water. Read all instructions before installation. Laminate flooring should never be nailed or glued to the subfloor. The floor should not be installed against any fixed, vertical object.

### IMPORTANT

- Allow a minimum of 3/8 inch expansion space around the perimeter of the room and any fixed objects.
- An expansion gap T-strip is required when the length or width of the planks measures 45-feet (12.2m). Transition strips must be placed in all doorways measuring 36 inches (.92m) or less.
- Stagger boards by a minimum of 12 inches to 16 inches.
- Flooring should be installed and maintained in a climate controlled environment with ambient temperature between 65°F - 85°F and a relative humidity of 35% - 65%.
- The minimum length for the first and last plank per row is 12 inches.

### SUGGESTED TOOLS AND MATERIALS:

- Laminate installation kit (including spacers, tapping block, 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
- Premium laminate glue
- Sandpaper
- Level
- Age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier (0.008 inch) – for installations over concrete
- Safety glasses
- Gloves
- 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:

Laminate flooring can be installed over most floors; 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 hydraulic cement base patching and 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. (Moisture test: moisture vapor < 3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft./24 hours per ASTM 1869 calcium chloride test).
- Install 0.008 inch age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier over the concrete subfloor (unless the underlayment being used has a moisture barrier). Tape seams with adhesive tape, such as duct tape. The vapor barrier should be installed up the wall by 1 inch. Note: Some underlayments have a moisture barrier in them. The poly sheeting will not be needed if the underlayment includes a moisture barrier.
- For sheet vinyl, tile and wood subflooring, the moisture content of the wood subfloor should not exceed 12%.

### Carpeting:

- Remove deep-pile carpeting and padding prior to installation of laminate flooring.

### 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.
- Newly installed water-type radiant heating flooring systems should be in operation, with the temperature set between 64°F -72°F for a minimum of 4 weeks. This will ensure that any sub floor moisture has properly dried.
- Older/existing water-type radiant floor heating systems need to be fully pressure tested, properly maintained, and set to a minimum of 64°F for at least 4 days before delivery, acclimation, or the installation of the flooring begins.
- After completing the installation, do not change/adjust the radiant heat settings for at least 48 hours. At any given time after the initial 48 hour period, the homeowner should only increase or decrease the temperature settings 4 to 5 degrees per day, so that the laminate flooring can adjust to the temperature changes in a gradual manner.
- Surface temperature must not exceed 85°F.
- Follow installation instructions for wood or concrete as outlined above.

## ROOM PREPARATION:

1. Remove all existing moldings.
2. 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.
3. Check door clearances and make necessary adjustments before laying the flooring. Door moldings (jambes) should be undercut to accommodate the thickness of the flooring as well as the underlayment (whether pre-attached or installed separately).
4. Install premium grade laminate flooring underlayment per the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Inspect each plank for defects prior to installation. Do not install defective planks; installation of defective planks implies acceptance of material.
6. 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.

## FINAL INSTALLATION:

- Remove the spacers placed along the perimeter of the room and cover the expansion space with the appropriate molding. Be sure to fasten the molding into the wall, not through the flooring. Quarter rounds should be pre-drilled before nailing them to the wall.
- Felt protection pads should be placed under furniture legs or other heavy objects to be left in place for an extended period of time. Do not drag or pull heavy furniture, as doing so will damage the floor.

## CLEANING AND CARE:

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
- Use acetone/nail polish remover on a clean white cloth to clean tough spots such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar. Wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove any remaining residue.

- Regularly sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Periodically clean the floor with cleaning products made specifically for laminate floor care such as Shaw Total Care Hard Surface Cleaner or comparable product.
- When cleaning, do not saturate the floor with water as this could cause swelling, warping, delamination, and joint separation. Remember Repel is water resistant not waterproof.
- Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
- Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
- For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, use a solvent such as isopropyl alcohol or odorless mineral spirits. Allow the solvent to dwell 1-2 minutes and gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a plastic spoon, agitate with a red scotchbrite pad and rinse with a dampened cloth. After rinsing, clean with a neutral pH floor cleaner, such as Shaw Total Care Hard Surface Cleaner.
- A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.

**CAUTION** - Using too much water or any other cleaning solution could result in the planks swelling, creating permanent damage to your floor. This damage would NOT be covered by Manufacturer's Limited Warranty.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Entry mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.
- To prevent slippage of area rugs, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
- Use floor protectors and wide, load-bearing leg bases/ rollers to minimize the chance of indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector.
- To minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the wood, maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35% and 65% throughout the year.

*Heating season (Dry):* A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.

*Non-Heating Season (Wet):* An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.

- Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
- Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.
- A protective mat should be used under furniture or chairs with castors/wheels. Never try to slide heavy objects across the floor.

## MINOR REPAIR INSTRUCTIONS

In the event that accidental damage occurs, minor scratches or dents can be repaired using a Flooring Touchup or Color-fill Kit. This special touch up kit contains a filler material that is color coordinated to the color of your floor. When Color-fill is used properly, the repaired area is often invisible. The repaired area should hold up to foot traffic and wear just like the rest of your laminate flooring.

## GLUELESS LAMINATE BOARD REPLACEMENT REPAIRS

- Glueless laminate may be assembled and disassembled several times.
- Carefully disassembled glueless joints will retain their original locking integrity during reassembly. New replacement plank(s) should be acclimated in the replacement area for at least 72 hours. This allows them to equalize to the conditions of the flooring in the room where the replacement(s) will take place.
- Be sure to stack the individual planks in the proper order for reinstallation. This usually eliminates the need to cut planks for start or end of the row lengths. To replace the damaged board(s), first remove baseboard, wall base, or quarter round as needed. Take the flooring apart one row at a time. Lift each row to detach, then separate the individual boards.
- For best visual results, replace the damaged board with a piece from the edge of the original installation.
- Insert the properly acclimated new plank(s) along the outer edge of the original flooring installation during reassembly. This practice minimizes the chance that a newer plank will stand out from the original installation.
- Reinstall the baseboard, wall base, or quarter round, and the replacement repair is complete.

## WARRANTY

To request a copy of the Limited Warranty, please call 1-800-441-7429.

**⚠ WARNING:** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).

**⚠ ADVERTENCIA:** Los productos para taladrar, aserrar, lijar o cortar madera pueden exponerlo al polvo de madera, una sustancia reconocida por el estado de California como causante de cáncer. Evite inhalar el polvo de la madera o utilice una máscara u otros artículos de protección personal. Para obtener más información, visite [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).



**AVERTISSEMENT** Le perçage, le sciage, le ponçage et l'usinage des produits en bois peut vous exposer à de la poussière de bois, une substance reconnue par l'État de la Californie comme étant la cause de cancers. Évitez d'inhaler la poussière de bois ou utilisez un masque antipoussières ou d'autres mesures de sécurité pour vous protéger. Pour plus de renseignements, rendez-vous au [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).

