How to install?

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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.
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. GENERAL 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 waste.
- 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 65-75 °F (18-24 °C) and the relative humidity should be maintained between 40-65 % before and during the installation.
- After installation the room temperature must be between 65-85 °F (18-30 °C) at 40-65 % relative humidity.
- For floor surfaces exceeding 1000 sq. ft. (100 m2) or lengths exceeding 30 feet (10 meters) and in doorways use transition moldings leaving min. ½” (10 mm) gap to divide the floor sections.

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.
● The product can be installed on substrates with grouts 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 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 contaminates.
● 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, concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lb / 3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft2 / 100 m2 per 24 hours as 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).
● Nail or screw every 6” / 15 cm along joints to avoid squeaking.
● 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, concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lbs / 3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft2 / 100 m2 per 24 hours as 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.

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.

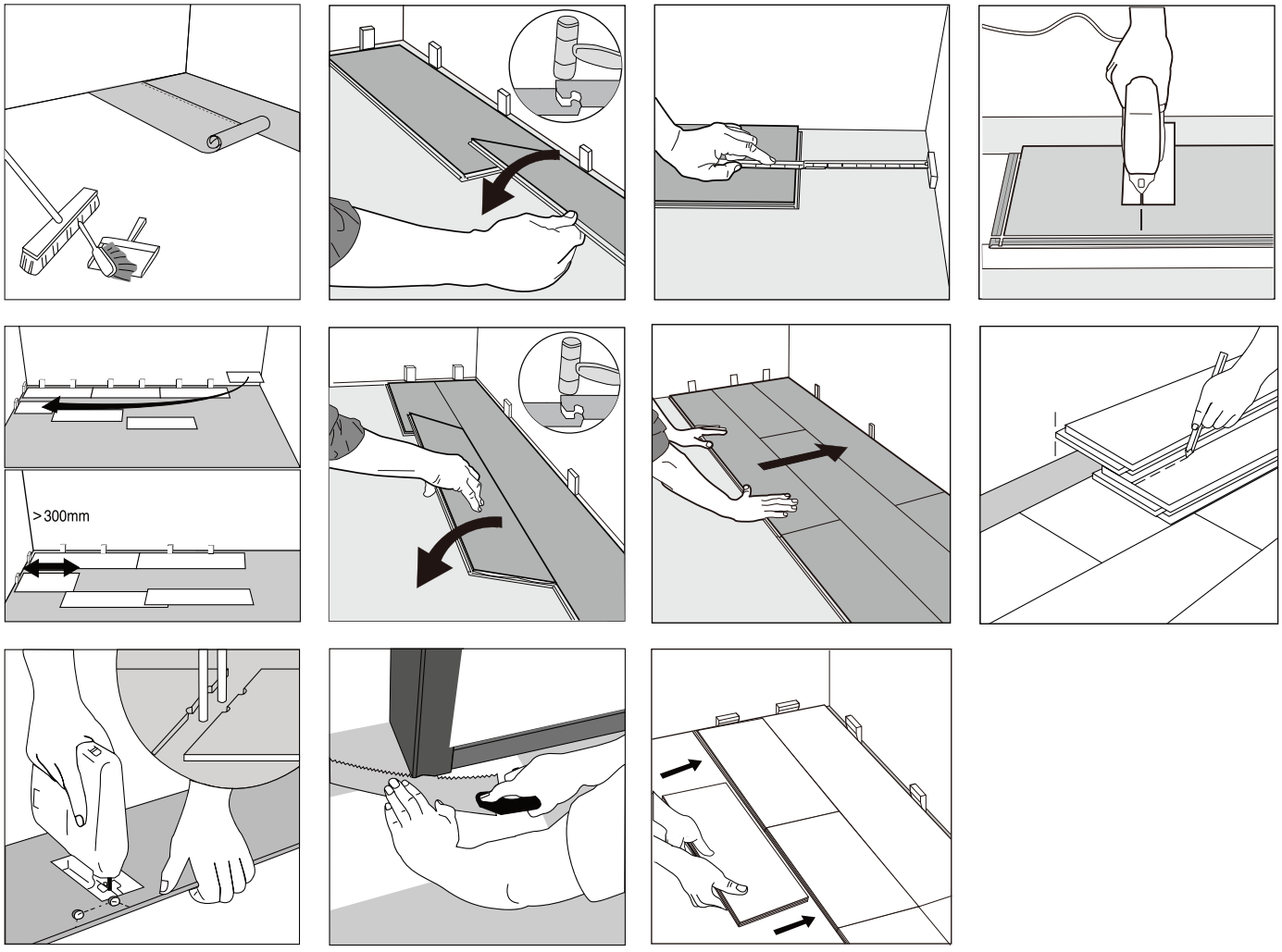
- Turn the heat off for 48 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system.
- The maximum moisture content of the screed is 1.5 % (CM method).
- The room temperature must be between 65-75 °F / 18-24 °C and the relative humidity should be maintained between 40-65 % 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 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 / Constructions Adhesive / Tapping Block / Rubber Mallet

● 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 ½” / 10 mm gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc. When installing around pipes, drill the holes ¾” / 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.
● **UNDERLAY:** If the floor does not have a pre-attached underlayment, an additional underlayment is recommended in order to improve acoustic performance and absorb some irregularities on the substrate. Best results can be expected with an underlayment thickness not more than 1/8" / 3 mm. If the floor has a pre-attached underlayment, the use of an additional underlayment could damage the locking mechanism and will void warranty.
● 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 8” / 20 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 recom mended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.
● Begin laying in the left-hand corner, with the grooved edge visible and facing outward. Use spacers between the wall and the floorboard in order to keep a ½” / 10 mm gap.



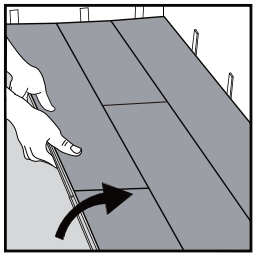
1. After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should install a foam underlay (unless your product has a pre-attached pad). Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the flooring planks. The underlay should be butted side-by-side with no overlap. Tape seams together. If you are installing over a concrete subfloor, a min 6 mil / 0.15 mm plastic poly sheeting is to be installed under the foam underlay. NOTE: Many foam underlays already have this plastic sheeting pre-attached.
2. Begin laying in the left-hand corner. Place the floorboard ½" / 10 mm from the left wall. Use spacers between the wall and the floorboard.
3. Second plank, first row: Drop the plank and gently tap down the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. NOTE: If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing.
4. At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of ½" / 10 mm to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.
5. If cutting with a jig saw, the laminate surface should be turned down. If cutting with a hand saw, the laminate surface should be face up.
6. Start the second row with the leftover cut part of the last plank of the previous row. This small plank should measure at least 12" / 30 cm. Otherwise, use another plank that should be cut in two.
7. Click the long side of the plank into the previous row and place it tight to the short end of the previous plank. Drop the plank and gently tap down the end with a rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned and locked into the previous row leaving no gap (refer to "Helpful Hint" at the bottom of the page).
NOTE: If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing.
8. After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by leaving an expansion gap of ½" / 10 mm. Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 12" / 30 cm, both when in the same row as when from one row to the next one.
9. To lay the last row: Position a loose board exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top, with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this boards, to mark the first board. Cut along the edge of this board to mark the first board. Cut along this line to obtain of the required width. Insert this cut board against the wall. The last row should be at least 2" / 50 mm wide. The spacers can then be removed.
10. Holes for pipes: Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 7/8" / 20 mm larger. Saw off a piece as shown in the figure and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawed-off piece in place.
11. Door molding and skirting: Lay a board (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and saw as shown in the figure. Then slide the floorboard under molding.

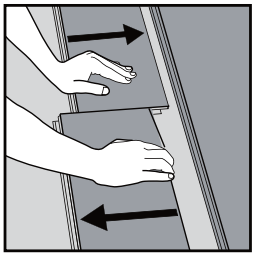
HELPFUL HINT
When installing each new row, take a full loose plank and use the long side to tap against the prior row to ensure no gapping.

III. MAINTENANCE

● Clean the floor regularly with a vacuum cleaner or dry mop.
● If necessary, the floor may be cleaned with a damp microfiber cloth and a laminate cleaner. Avoid using too much water.
● To protect the floor from sand we recommend you use the doormats at entries (but do not use mats with a rubber backing).

IV. DISASSEMBLING





Separate the whole row by lifting it up delicately at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart.