

LAMINATE – Installation and Maintenance Guide

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: QUALITY FLOORING - LAMINATE FLOORING

Congratulations on your new 'Laminate Flooring'. Before starting with the installation, it is critical that you read the following instructions carefully. Failure to do so will inevitably result in problems occurring and invalidate your warranty

Condition of Warranty: the flooring system must be installed by an accredited floor installer in accordance with the *Quality Flooring Installation and Maintenance Guide*.

INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY:

All installed boards will be considered as accepted by installer and/or homeowner. Any defects should be reported to Quality Flooring prior to installation for inspection and/or replacement. We cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects for flooring that has already been installed.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:

Quality Flooring laminate products are inspected for quality before packaging and shipping. Nevertheless, a final jobsite inspection of your flooring should be performed for grade, colour, finish and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. Room temperature and humidity of the installation area should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least a week before installation.

Room temperature of 18°C - 24°C and a humidity range of 35-55% is recommended. It is most important that you install the flooring immediately after you open the cartons, without waiting for several hours or days. Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls.

GENERAL INSTALLATION NOTES:

ALL QUALITY FLOORING LAMINATE FLOORS REACT TO HUMIDITY AND MOISTURE. It is the responsibility of the installer and the owner to install an effective moisture barrier and to maintain correct moisture and humidity percentage (your moisture meter must read less than 12%)

- ★ The humidity of a room can vary due to many factors – the change of seasons for example. The floors must be able to expand and contract in all directions.
- ★ Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards in adjacent rows. They should be staggered at mid point when the boards are of equal length.
- ★ Any installation requiring the flooring to be exceed 8 metres in width or 12 metres in length will require an expansion or T-moulding.
- ★ Always allow a 10 – 15mm expansion around all vertical obstructions.

SUBFLOOR HEATING:

QUALITY FLOORING LAMINATE FLOORING IS NOT SUITABLE FOR FLOORS WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION:**CONCRETE:**

- 1) Ensure that your subfloor is dry, clean, flat, smooth and level. Height differences of more than 3mm +/- over 3 metre must be levelled. The slab must also be no more than RH60% , flatness of the subfloor is not to exceed 3mm under a 1.5m straight edge and levelness of the subfloor should not to exceed 4mm in 2m. Correct any changes in height difference and ensure that the leveling compound has cured prior to starting your installation.

WOOD AND OTHER SURFACES:

- 1) Ensure that your subfloor is dry, clean, flat, smooth and level. Height differences of more than 3mm +/- over 3 metre must be levelled. Correct any changes in height differences and ensure that the leveling compound has cured prior to starting your installation.

PREPARING TO INSTALL:

- 1) Clean and sweep.
- 2) Let the opened packages of flooring lie flat on the floor in the room in which the floor is to be installed.
- 3) Check door and door frame clearances to ensure that doors will move freely without contacting the laminate flooring surface.
- 4) Although Quality Flooring laminate flooring can be installed in any direction, as a rule, laminate floors are usually installed perpendicular to a window. Installing the floor parallel to the longest wall tends to make a room appear larger. You will get better results by laying two or three rows of Quality Flooring Laminate flooring in advance to get an eye pleasing distribution of the planks.
- 5) Lay underlay taping the edges together using wide adhesive tape, but do not overlap the edges.

INSTALLATION:

- 1) Measure the room carefully to determine if it is square, and to calculate the width of the last row. For planks less than 50mm width, re-cutting the first row will be necessary to ensure stability (do not include the tongue of a plank in your measurements, as all exposed tongues must be removed from the perimeter of the floor – i.e. the first row of planks). Should you have an irregular wall for the first row, the plank must be cut to follow the wall's irregularities.
- 2) When preparing to saw a plank (use safety glasses), always ensure that the decorative surface of the plank is facing down.
- 3) Starting in one corner of the room, the flooring should be installed from left to right, with the tongue sides facing the walls. Place spacers between the plank and the wall (spacers provide the necessary space required for expansion around the perimeter of the floor). It is especially important to leave at least 10mm free around the entire floor. To ensure stability, the planks at end of each row must not be shorter than 300mm. if you last plank is shorter than 300mm, it is advised to re-cut the first plank in the row. The remainder of the plank from your first row can be used as the first plank of the next row. Stagger the joins by cutting the first plank of every row to different lengths i.e. 300mm, 600mm, 900mm, full board. This will give a random pattern that will then be repeated until the opposite wall is reached.

- 4) When laying the planks for the first row, place the first plank flat and against the spacers. To put the second panel into place, join the width side of the second panel with the width side of the first panel, push them together firmly and fasten the joint by pushing the panel down flat onto the sub-floor. If the joining is not tight, use a hammer and a suitable tapping block and tap gently at the other end of the second panel, if necessary. Make sure the alignment of planks is straight.
- 5) Repeat this procedure and complete the first row. At the end of the first row, mark and cut the last panel to obtain the suitable size/shape to fit the remaining space. Cut the panel with the décor side facing up if using a fine-toothed handsaw, and with the décor facing downwards if using a jigsaw. This last piece can be fitted with the use of a suitable tensioning tool or heel iron.
- 6) To start the second row, use the leftover piece of the last panel from the first row. To install the first panel of the second row, have it slightly tilted with its tongue inserted into the groove of the panel in the first row, and then press it down flat firmly so that the tongue and groove will interlock. The joint should be locked tight. If not, dismantle the panel and repeat the process and simply tap the panel tight with a heel iron (or a suitable tapping block) and a hammer. Start tapping from one end to the other, along the length side. Position the width (end joint) of the subsequent panel close to the exposed width (end joint) of the first panel so the lock is almost in place, with its tongue on the length side inserted into the groove of the panel of the first row. Standing on the panels of the first row, pull this panel inwards and then push it firmly downwards so that the tongue interlocks with the groove of the panel in the first row. Then use a hammer and tapping block and tap gently at the other end of the panel to tighten the width side. Follow the laying instruction explained earlier and complete the second row. Subsequent panels/consecutive rows can be installed by repeating these steps.
- 7) When you reach the final row, place a loose panel precisely on the last laid panel. Place another panel on top, but with its edge 10mm from the wall. Trace a cutting line along the middle panel and saw it along that line.
- 8) Lay the panel you cut and ease it into position. Insert spacers between the wall and the last panel laid to be sure there is a 10mm expansion gap.
- 9) When going from one room to the other, make sure to separate the rooms with a transition moulding. The floor is ready for use as soon as it is laid.

FINISHING:

- 1) Remove the spacers.
- 2) Cover the expansion joints around the perimeter of the floor with baseboard skirting or scotias. If a vapour barrier was used, do not forget to fold the polyethylene film along the edge of the walls under the baseboards and/or quarter rounds. Fit these products to the walls without attaching them to the floor.
- 3) Install the T-moulding to hide the expansion gaps where needed (doorways, area more than 6m wide and 10m long).
- 4) Any remaining boards can be kept for several years, stored flat in a moisture-free area. Furniture can be put back in position right away.

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Set out below are Maintenance Instructions for cleaning and protecting your Laminate flooring:

Your new floor will add warmth and character to your home whilst offering superior wear and stain resistance, and easy no-wax care. The following simple maintenance steps will ensure that your floor is protected and kept looking new.

Cleaning the floor:

1. For daily cleaning, vacuum or sweep the floor, or wipe with a damp mop or cloth. Mopping or sweeping the floor will minimize wear from abrasive grit and dirt.
2. Wipe up spillages as soon as possible with a damp mop or wiping cloth which has been well wrung out to remove all excess water.
3. We recommend *Bona* floor cleaning products mopped dry with an anti-static or similar mop.
4. Do not wax, polish or use abrasive cleaners or scouring powder to clean your floor.
5. Do not use a steam mop. This will cause moisture to penetrate and discolor the floor joins and will void the warranty.

Protecting the floor:

1. Use quality area rugs and doormats by outdoor entrance areas to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substance such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor.
2. Use floor protectors and wide-beating leg bases/rollers to minimize indentations from heavy objects. Generally, the heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be for maximum protection.
3. Felt or rubber protectors should be used under chair and table legs.
4. Avoid walking on the Laminate floor with metal tipped stiletto-heeled shoes.
5. Avoid gouges or cuts into your floor from sharp objects. Small objects dropped from a height have immense impact pressure and steps should be taken to protect the floor from such impacts.
6. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor without precautions.
7. Rolling loads from castors under furniture and trolleys may damage the surface. The smaller the castor the greater the likelihood of damage occurring.
8. Keep pets' nail trimmed.
9. Rearrange rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. UV sunlight will soften the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees.
10. Use a humidifier to maintain humidity levels between 35-55%.

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