



LAMINATE FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Our laminate flooring uses a locking tongue-and-groove design for a tight, durable joint that helps protect against separation and ensures long-lasting performance when installed correctly. Laminate flooring can be installed over most hard, flat surfaces and is suitable for residential and light-commercial interior spaces.

Please read all instructions fully before installation.

REQUIREMENTS & SITE CONDITIONS

- Subfloor must be **flat, clean, dry, and structurally sound**. Uneven areas greater than **3/16" in 10 feet** must be leveled.
- **Premium moisture barrier is required** over all concrete subfloors and recommended for all installations.
- Maximum continuous installation area: **32.8 ft (10m)** length or width. T-molding is required for larger areas.
- Interior use only — climate-controlled environments only.
- Maintain installation/storage temperature between **60°–85°F**, RH **30%–55%**.
- Do **not** install in areas exposed to direct sunlight, high humidity, or moisture.
- Keep documentation of moisture testing and subfloor flatness.
- Do **not** install laminate over carpet, soft surfaces, or subfloors sloped for drainage.
- Residential and light commercial use only.
- Install boards **parallel to the main light source** where possible.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

- Acclimate laminate flooring for **48 hours** in unopened boxes at 60°–85°F and RH 30%–55%.
- Do not stack boxes higher than 10 and do not place items on top.
- Do not store boxes directly on concrete — allow airflow beneath.
- Inspect all planks for defects prior to installation.
- Open multiple cartons and mix boards to achieve a natural layout.
- Install all cabinets and fixed furniture **before** installing the floor — never install laminate underneath cabinets.
- Remove all furniture, trim, baseboards, and quarter round prior to installation.
- Subfloor must be clean: remove adhesives, paint, residue, dust, and debris.
- Undercut door jambs to allow laminate to slide underneath (3/8" clearance).
- Confirm doors will open/close properly after flooring is installed.
- Do **not** install in areas prone to flooding or moisture intrusion.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Tape measure, pencil, straight edge, chalk line, carpenter square, utility knife or laminate cutter, tapping block, pull bar, rubber mallet, safety glasses, spacers.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Concrete Subfloors

- Moisture vapor emissions must not exceed **5 lbs/24 hr/1,000 sq. ft.** (ASTM F1869), or **85% RH** (ASTM F2170).
- Concrete must cure for **90 days** minimum.
- Level areas greater than 3/16" in 10 feet using a suitable leveling compound.
- Fill holes/cracks using a latex patching compound.

- A **premium moisture barrier (minimum 6 mil polyethylene)** is required.
- Installer/homeowner is responsible for ensuring moisture and flatness issues are resolved prior to installation.

Wood Subfloors

- Must be clean, dry, solid, and flat.
- Sand down high spots and fill low spots with leveling compound.
- Secure loose boards and eliminate movement.
- Do not install over subfloors with moisture issues or over old laminate directly on concrete.

Tile, Terrazzo, or Stone Subfloors

- Must be solid and flat.
- Level all grout lines exceeding 3/16".

Carpet

- Must be fully removed prior to installation.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

1. Layout

- Install boards parallel to the longest wall or main light direction.
- Snap a straight chalk line to maintain alignment.
- Mix planks from 4–5 cartons for the most natural appearance.

2. Starting Row

- Begin at the left side of the room.
- Place the first plank with the **tongue side facing the wall**.
- Insert spacers to maintain a **3/8"–1/2" expansion gap** around all walls, columns, pipes, and fixed objects.

3. Connecting Planks

- Insert the tongue into the groove at a slight angle.
- Lower the plank until it locks.
- Continue along the row until complete.

4. End of Row

- Measure and cut the last plank to maintain a **3/8"-1/2" gap** at the wall.
- Use the cut end to begin the second row (minimum length 12").

5. Installing Additional Rows

- Stagger end joints by **8"-12" minimum** for stability and appearance.
- Click short edges together first, then angle the long edge and lock into the previous row.
- Use a tapping block and pull bar when needed — **never use a hammer directly on the plank.**

6. Final Row

- Final boards must be at least **2" wide**.
- Reduce the first row width if needed.

7. Doorways and Obstacles

- Use a tapping block or pull bar to lock planks under door jambs.
- Maintain **minimum 3/8" expansion gap** at all door frames and fixed objects.

8. After Installation

- Remove all spacers.
- Clean the area and sweep with a soft broom.
- Install baseboards and quarter round, fastening them **to the wall, not the flooring.**
- Do not allow baseboard or trim to restrict floor movement.

AFTER-CARE & MAINTENANCE

- Maintain indoor temperature 60°–85°F and RH 40%–70%.
- Use mats at entryways to reduce dirt, water, and grit.
- Sweep or dust-mop daily.
- Use only **Flooring Alpha-approved cleaners**.
No harsh chemicals, bleach, ammonia, vinegar, waxes, oil soaps, or abrasive pads.
- **Steam mops are strictly prohibited** — they will void the warranty.
- Protect flooring from direct sunlight; prolonged exposure may cause fading.
- Use **felt furniture pads** under all furniture.
- Use **soft-wheel office chairs** or a protective desk mat.
- **Never drag** heavy objects, appliances, or furniture across the floor.
- Avoid heels with spikes, rocks, or sharp objects that can scratch the surface.