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Laminate Flooring Installation Guide

STEP-BY-STEP BOOKLET

For click-lock floating
laminate installations.



Always follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions first.



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Before You Get Started



IMPORTANT

Always follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions first. Product-specific requirements for acclimation, underlayment, moisture protection, expansion gaps, and locking systems may vary.

1



Inspect the Material

- Open several cartons.
- Check for damaged planks, damaged click-lock edges, pattern variation, and correct product, colour, size, and quantity.
- Mix boards from several boxes.

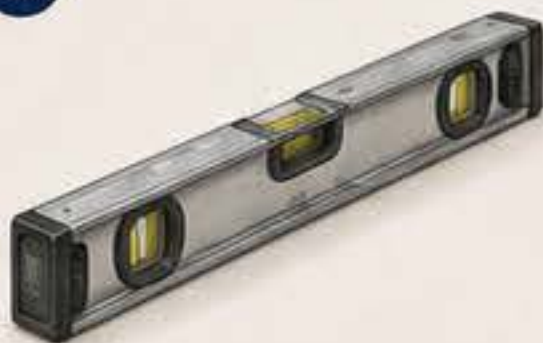
2



Prepare the Room

- Remove existing flooring if required.
- Remove baseboards or shoe moulding as needed.
- Remove debris, staples, nails, and glue residue.
- Remove doors if needed and undercut door jambs and casings.

3



Check the Subfloor

- The subfloor must be clean, dry, flat, structurally sound, and free of movement or squeaks.
- Flatness guideline: no more than 3/16 inch over 10 feet and 1/8 inch over 6 feet.

4



Check Moisture

- Check concrete moisture, wood subfloor moisture, humidity, leaks, and water damage.
- Do not install over damp or moisture-damaged areas.

5



Plan the Layout

- Plan flooring direction, first and last row widths, board staggering, doorways, transitions, and obstacles.

6



Maintain Expansion Gaps

- Leave space around walls, pipes, cabinets, stair parts, and fixed objects.
- Attach trims to the wall, not the flooring.





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LAMINATE FLOORING OVERVIEW

Laminate flooring has a durable decorative wear surface over a stable core. Most laminate products install as floating click-lock floors over approved underlayment. Laminate offers easy maintenance and strong everyday durability, but it must be protected from excessive moisture and installed with proper expansion space.

Common use areas include living spaces, bedrooms, hallways, and other approved interior areas according to the manufacturer's specifications.





Tools & Materials

Gather all tools and materials before starting the installation. Always follow product-specific manufacturer requirements.



Essential Tools



Tape measure



Chalk line



Pencil



Moisture meter



Table saw or mitre saw



Jigsaw



Spacers



Rubber mallet



Tapping block



Pull bar



Safety glasses



Knee pads

Laminate-Specific Materials



Underlayment



Vapour barrier if required



Seam tape



Transition mouldings



Matching trims



Stair nose



Core Installation Steps 1–4

1

Acclimate the Flooring

If required by the manufacturer, store unopened cartons in the installation room for the required time. Maintain normal living conditions. Typical interior conditions are about 18°C to 24°C and 35% to 55% RH.



18–24°C
35–55% RH



2

Inspect and Mix Boards

Open several cartons. Check for shade and pattern variation, damaged boards, and damaged click edges. Mix boards from multiple cartons for a natural blend.



3

Test the Subfloor

Confirm the subfloor is dry, flat, clean, and secure. Repair squeaks, fill low spots, remove debris, and verify acceptable moisture levels.



4

Install Underlayment

Roll out the approved underlayment. Tape seams if required. Over concrete, use a vapour barrier or underlayment with built-in moisture protection when specified.





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Core Installation Steps 5–6

5

Plan the Layout

Install boards parallel to the longest wall or main light source when practical.

Measure the first and last rows, avoid narrow final rows, and use a chalk line to keep the floor straight.

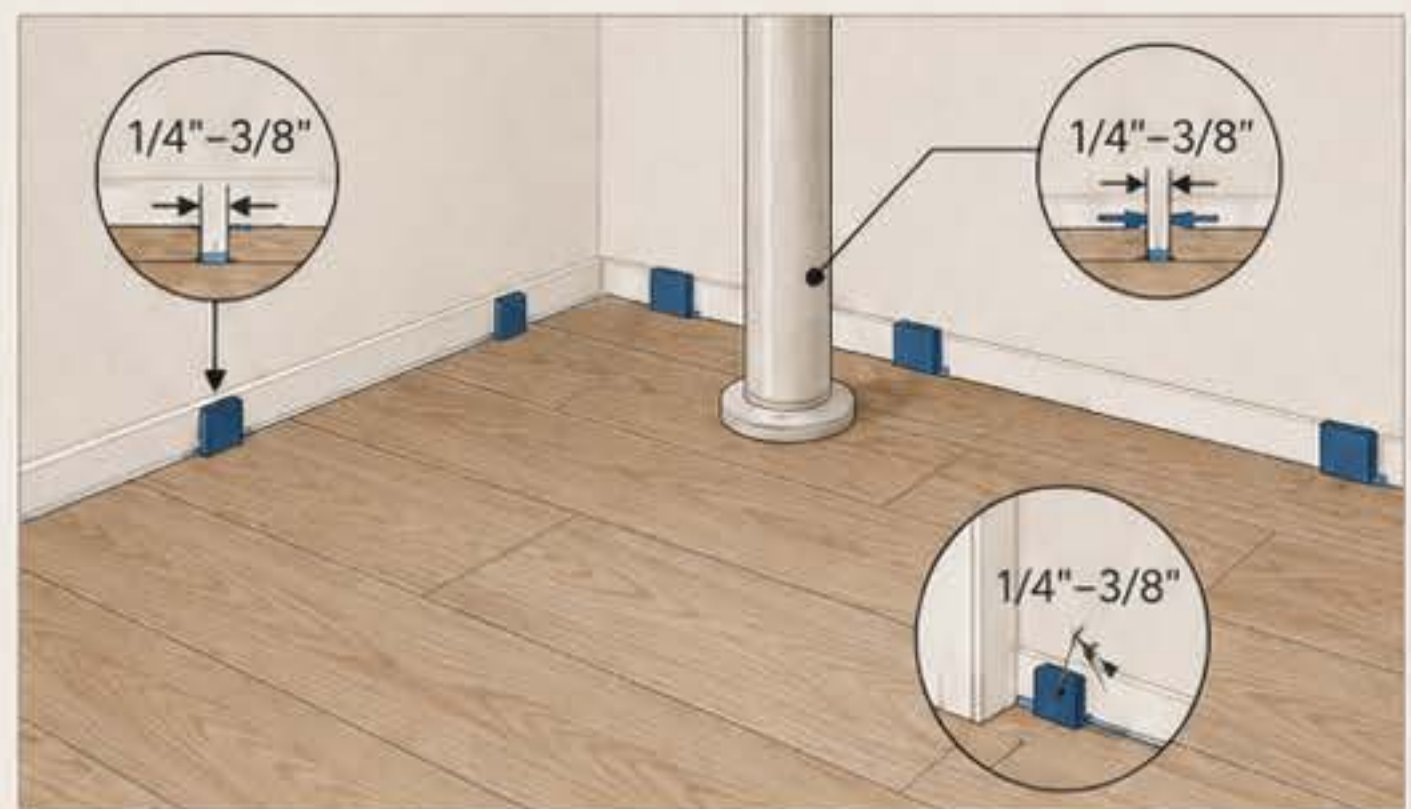


6

Leave Expansion Gaps

Laminate flooring needs expansion space. A typical gap is about 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch, or as required by the manufacturer.

Leave space around walls, pipes, door frames, columns, cabinets, and other fixed objects.



Installation Notes

- Follow the product-specific locking system.
- Use only approved underlayment and accessories.
- Keep rows straight and joints tight.
- Never trap a floating floor with fixed trims or cabinetry.
- Maintain the required expansion gap throughout the room.

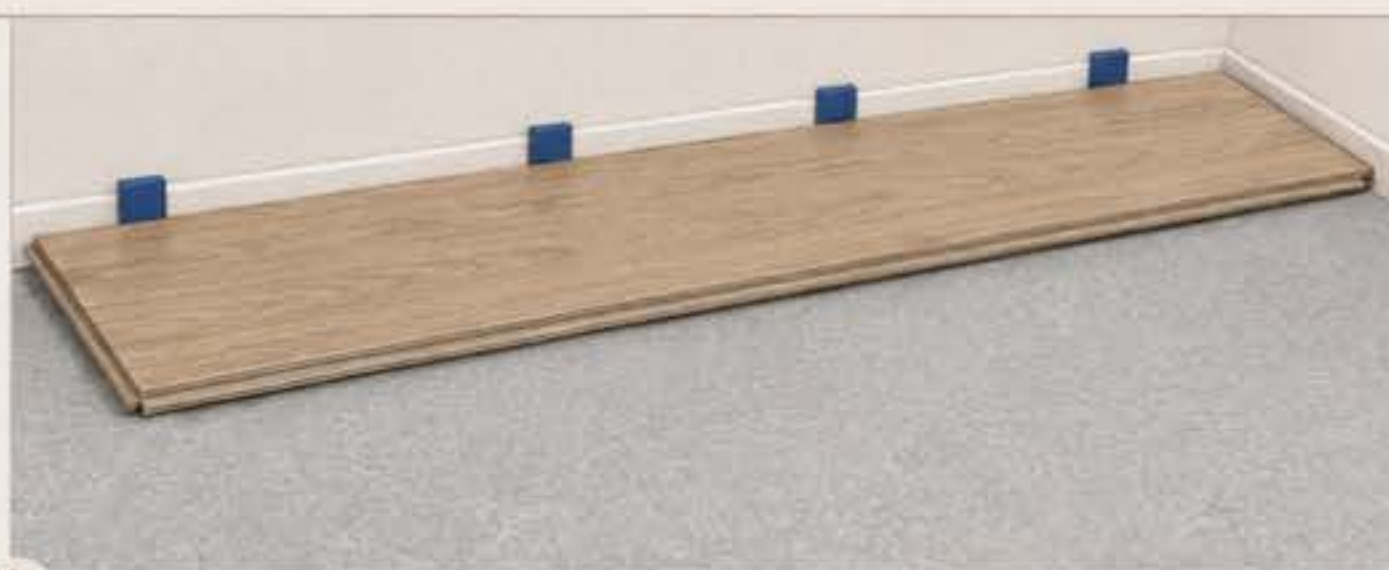


Installation Steps 1–5

1

Start the First Row

Place spacers along the wall. Lay the first board with the tongue or groove orientation required by the locking system. Keep the first row straight.



2

Stagger the Boards

Use an offcut from the previous row if it is long enough. Stagger end joints by at least 8 inches, or according to the manufacturer's minimum requirement.



3

Angle and Lock the Planks

Insert the long side tongue into the groove at the correct angle and lower the plank carefully into place.



4

Continue Installing Rows

Close joints tightly. Use a tapping block only if approved. Do not strike the laminate directly with a hammer.



5

Install the Final Row

Measure and trim the last row to fit. Leave the required expansion gap and use a pull bar carefully if needed.



Installation Steps 6–10

6 Cut Around Obstacles

Mark and cut carefully around vents, pipes, and other penetrations. Maintain expansion space where required.



7 Install Around Door Jambs

Undercut jambs and slide flooring neatly underneath while preserving movement space.



8 Install Transitions and Trims

Install T-mouldings, reducers, end caps, and stair nosings as required. Fasten transitions according to manufacturer instructions.



9 Reinstall Baseboards and Vents

Reinstall baseboards, shoe moulding if used, and floor registers. Attach trims to the wall or substructure, not through the floating floor.



10 Clean and Inspect the Floor

Remove spacers, vacuum the floor, wipe away dust, and inspect all joints, gaps, and transitions.



Finishing Details & Special Areas

1 Doorways & T-Mouldings

Use transition mouldings where floating floors meet adjoining surfaces or large openings.



2 Reducers & End Caps

Use the correct profile where floor height changes or where the laminate terminates.



3 Pipes & Radiators

Cut neatly around penetrations and cover with collars or trim pieces while preserving expansion space.



4 Floor Vents

Cut openings carefully and reinstall registers without restricting floor movement.



5 Stairs & Stair Nose

Use approved stair nosings and trim systems where laminate is used near stair edges.



6 Heavy Fixed Items

Do not trap the floating floor under fixed cabinets, islands, or heavy built-ins unless the manufacturer specifically allows it.





Final Checklist & Important Reminders

BEFORE HANDING OVER THE PROJECT, CONFIRM:

- ☐ Flooring is fully installed and locked properly.
- ☐ No visible damaged boards.
- ☐ Expansion gaps are covered but not restricted.
- ☐ Transitions are secure.
- ☐ Door clearance is correct.
- ☐ Vents and trims are reinstalled.
- ☐ Floor is clean and dry.
- ☐ Debris and underlayment scraps are removed.
- ☐ The customer understands care requirements.
- ☐ Moisture precautions are explained.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Always follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions first. Product-specific requirements for acclimation, underlayment, moisture protection, expansion gaps, and warranty conditions may vary.

Maintain normal indoor living conditions before, during, and after installation.

Use approved laminate floor cleaners and avoid excess moisture or standing water.

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