



INSTALLATION

Before you begin:

- Under good lighting conditions, check that all your panels are clean and unchipped.
- It is important to leave the closed packages of flooring in the environment of the area to be installed for 48 hours in order to acclimatize. Boxes should be laid horizontally, and the room temperature should be approx. 62-73°F with a humidity between 45% and 60%.
- For best results, lay the panels parallel to the brightest light source in the room. Existing baseboards can be removed and replaced later or keep them and cover the expansion space between the flooring and the baseboard with quarter-round moldings.

Subfloor and Floor preparation:

1. Sub floor must be clean, dry and solid. Any staples, nails or glue residue must be removed prior to installation.
2. Check if the floor is even by hammering a nail into the center of the floor and taping a string to it. Holding the free end of the string, move to the edge of the floor until the string is taut. Hold the end to the ground and examine the floor at eye level for gaps between the string and the floor. Gaps that are more than 1/8" per 3'2" must be sanded or filled in appropriately, otherwise panels may separate with use.
3. Carefully check floor for moisture problems, cure any problems before you begin installation. Do not install laminate in damp rooms such as bathrooms, saunas, rooms with floor drains or wet concrete, rooms that could flood. Allow new concrete floors to cure for at least 60 days prior to installation.



INSTALLATION

Basic Install Instructions:

1. A 4mil poly. vapor barrier must be laid down over concrete floors or any floors laid over a crawl space. Overlap seams 18" and tape. Run poly. up walls 2".
2. All installations require a foam underlay which runs in the same direction as the panels. Butt rows of underlay side by side and tape seams. Do not overlap underlay.
3. On the first row of panels, you will need to remove the tongue edge that faces the wall; use a utility knife or circular saw. This will ensure that the baseboard trim overlaps the decorative surface of the laminate.
4. Start in on corner, placing the trimmed edge of the panel against the wall. Spaces must be used to maintain an expansion space of 5/16"-3/8" between the wall and the panel. Without this spacing, the finished floor may buckle when changes in climate cause the wood to expand. Never attach the floor to any surface, as it must be free to expand and contract.
5. Click the end of the next panel into the preceding panel. Use a tapping block and hammer to gently tap together so that there is no space in the joint between them.
6. Continue connecting the panels along the wall until you get to the last full board. Take the last panel and rotate it 180° and flip upside down. Place beside your connected row, measure and mark and cut the length of the final piece. Use a pull bar to tap the end piece into place. Don't forget to allow for the expansion space wherever the laminate meets the wall.
7. Likewise install for each succeeding row of panels. Ensure each starting piece is a minimum of 10" in length and that the joint offset with the adjacent row described above to ensure a tight fit and to ensure there are no gaps when finished.



INSTALLATION

8. finish off the last row of panels, lay a panel upside down, tongue to the wall (don't forget the expansion space). Take another board and place it on top of the one to be measured and use it as straight edge to mark the line that needs to be cut. Cut panels and use a pull bar to tap into place.
9. Door frames and heating ducts also need an expansion space. To measure this, cut the panel to length and place it next to its actual position. Use a ruler and pencil to measure and mark the section to be cut out, including the required expansion space.
10. Trim door frames by placing an up-side down panel next to it, using it as a guide to cut away the necessary height for the laminate to slip under. Remember to allow for an expansion space beneath the frame. Trim the floor with the appropriate molding.