

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Estimate square footage and add 10%.
- Select underlayment (over concrete or in moisture prone areas, the underlayment selected must act as a vapor barrier). If the product you have selected already has a pre-attached underlayment, then a 6 mil vapor barrier must be used over concrete or in moisture prone areas.

ACCLIMATION:

Store unopened boxes flat in the room where the flooring is to be installed, for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Once boxes are opened, they should be installed immediately.

Please inspect the flooring panels carefully for any possible damage or defects before installation. No complaints regarding visual defects will be accepted after the flooring is installed. If you discover apparent defects in the flooring panels you should stop the installation immediately and call us at 1-800-356-5260.

Laminate flooring is not suitable for wet areas.

INSTALLATION TOOLS

1. Wood Glue
2. Spacers
3. Pull-bar
4. Circular Saw with a fine-toothed blade
5. Hammer (min. 1 lb)
6. Pencil
7. Straight Edge

GENERAL GUIDELINES



NOTE: Never Use a tapping block or installation kid designed for other laminate floors. Using these tools will damage your floor and void your warranty. This Laminate flooring is designed to be installed floating. Under no circumstances should flooring panels be glued, nailed, screwed or otherwise adhered (e.g. door stopper, closet track) to the subfloor in any way.

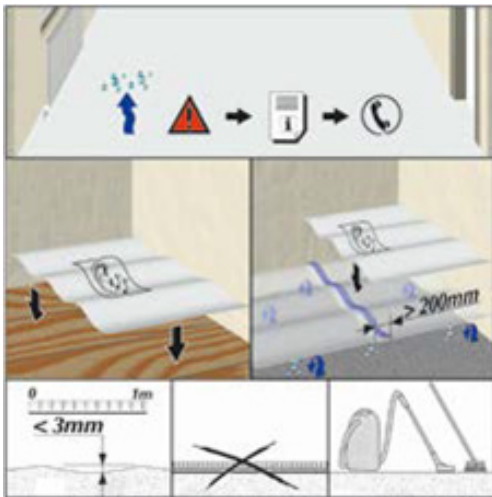
- This Laminate flooring needs room to expand. An expansion gap of 10–15 mm (3/8" to 5/8") should always be left around the perimeter of the

Encore Plus

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE



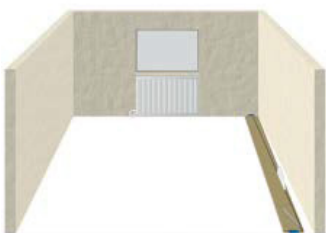
room (e.g.: between the flooring panels and the walls or any other fixed elements, such as heating pipes or door jambs). This expansion gap can be covered up with baseboards, quarter rounds or the appropriate floor trim. T-Moldings (at least 2 cm (1") in width) must be used between adjoining rooms, hallways and doorways. T-Moldings must be used in the middle of rooms measuring more than 33' in the direction of the panel length and more than 26' in the direction of the panel width.



- Installation should be carried out at a room temperature of at least 18°C (65°F) and a floor temperature of at least 15°C (59°F). The relative humidity in the room should be 50-60 %. The temperature difference between the flooring panels and the subfloor should not exceed ± 3 degrees.
- The sub-floor must be absolutely level, dry, clean, and firm. Carpet is not a suitable underlayment. Differences in floor level of more than 3 mm per meter span (1/8" on 3') must either be sanded down or filled in with suitable floor filling compound.
- For installation below grade, or on a concrete subfloor, an underlayment with vapor barrier must be used. If the product you have selected already has a pre-attached underlayment,

then a 6 mil vapor barrier must be used over concrete or in moisture prone areas. The seams of underlayment should overlap by at least 20 cm (8") and must be taped with moisture resistant tape along the length of this overlap. For more information regarding vapor emission from concrete, please call us at 1-800-359-5260.

- For acoustic insulation, an appropriate underlayment should be used. Underlayment maximum thickness under this Flooring is 4mm and a minimum density of 53 kg/m³ (3.5 lbs/ft³). If the product you have selected already has a pre-attached underlayment, this step is not needed.



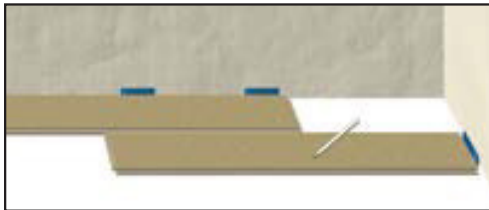
- Flooring panels should preferably be installed longitudinally (lengthwise) to the main light source.
- Avoid narrow pieces at the finish wall. Measure the distance between the starting wall and the finish wall. Divide this number by the width of the laminate flooring plank. The remainder must be greater than 2 1/2".

Encore Plus

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

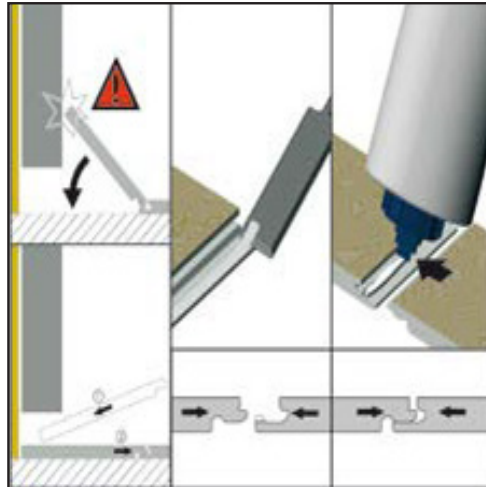
- For installation on underfloor heating please call 1-800-359-5260 for further information. Radiant heated subfloors should never exceed 26 degrees C (79 degrees F).
- Your Laminate flooring can be walked on immediately following installation. As soon as part of the flooring has been installed, the furniture can be moved onto the finished installation.
- Install appropriate underlayment as per the underlayment manufacturer's guidelines.

INSTALLATION ILLUSTRATIONS

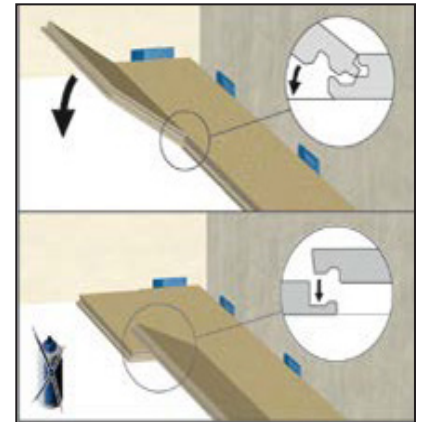


Step 1 Installation Illustration

STEP 1: For the first row of panels cut off the tongue of the plank. Lay the first plank with the trimmed tongue edge on the long side of the plank facing the wall while taking special care to maintain proper expansion as explained in the general guidelines above.



Step 2 Installation Illustration

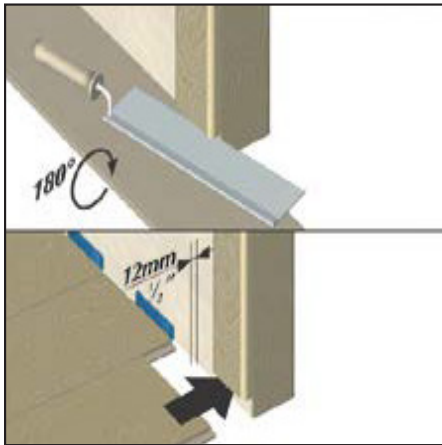


Step 4 Installation Illustration

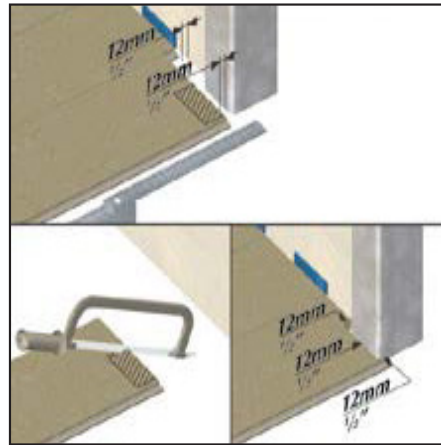
STEP 2: Assemble the end joints by lowering the tongue of the plank into the groove from top to bottom on the short side of the panel. Glue the short sides of the panels on the first and last rows and weigh them down for approximately one hour until the glue sets.

STEP 3: To start the second row, use the remainder of the last plank of the first row if it is longer than 30cm (12") long, otherwise, cut a new plank in half and proceed. To ensure structural integrity of your floor, **it is mandatory to always stagger the end joints from row to row by at least 40cm (16").**

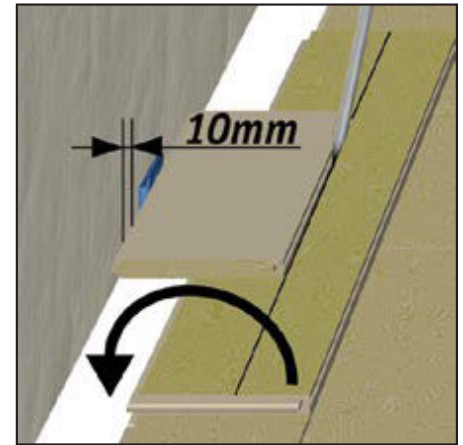
STEP 4: Angle the tongue of the long side of the plank into the groove of the first panel of the first row at an angle of approx. 25° and lower the panel to lock it into place.



Step 5 Installation Illustration



Step 6 Installation Illustration



Step 7 Installation Illustration

STEP 5: In the case where you are unable to angle panels (eg. Under a doorframe or radiator), you must cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a wood chisel. Run a bead of glue on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the panels gently with the use of a pull bar and a hammer.

STEP 6: If a doorframe must be undercut, lay a plank of flooring next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the doorjamb with a saw, then slide the flooring plank under the doorjamb with the decorative pattern facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the doorjamb and recommended expansion gap must be respected

STEP 7: Continue the installation in this manner until you get to the last row. For the last row, measure the exact width required. To do this, lay a plank of flooring on the second to last row. Then lay a second plank of flooring on top of this plank with the tongue side of the plank touching the wall. This will allow you to determine the width needed for the final row. Make a mark with a pencil and cut with a saw along this mark. Expansion gap must be respected!

HOW TO REPLACE LAMINATE PLANKS

1. To repair damaged laminate planks, start with drilling a ½" hole on each corner of the damaged laminate plank. You will want to be as close as possible to the plank end joints. Drill two or three more holes on each side of the damaged laminate plank approximately 4" to 5" from each other.
2. Draw a straight line between the holes to prevent mistakes and use it as a cutting guide.
3. Make sure you stick to the exact depth of the laminate when using the saw so you prevent cutting into the underlayment or sub-floor which you definitely do not want.

Encore Plus

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

4. Begin in the center of the laminate plank, cut along the lines to the inner holes and continue to the holes that you drilled.
5. Cut out the center piece or lift it out. If necessary, you can use a utility knife to lift it up.
6. Remove the remaining pieces of the board by rocking them up and down. Be gentle and very careful during this step because you could cause damage to the laminate floor planks next to the damaged one. You definitely want to pay attention to the adjoining laminate floor planks.
7. Make sure the area is cleaned up from any excess. You want it to be nice and clean before you install the new plank.
8. Now it comes time for the replacement laminate plank. You have to cut off the tongue on both sides, the short and long edge of the board. Laminate flooring brands may also require trimming of the groove along a short edge so the new plank will sit in place. The best tool to do it will be a vibratory undercut saw.
9. Now that the damaged laminate plank is out of the way, it is time to install the new laminate plank. Apply a few drops of glue to the groove of the uncut plank (the one that was connected to the damaged plank). You should apply glue to all seams and joints but only a few drops. Wipe off any extra glue that you may have before it dries. If you use too much glue, the ends may swell later. Remember, only a few drops. Perhaps only three on the short ends and one drop every six inches on the long.
10. You should place something heavy on the plank and let it dry for the day.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Vacuum, dust mop (dry) and when necessary, clean with a **MOIST** (not wet) cloth or mop. **NEVER USE** wet cleaning tools and cleaners, soaps, floor polish, floor cleaning wax, oil soaps, etc. These products can damage and/or leave a film on the flooring.

TIPS:

- Use felt tip protectors
- Area rug use is recommended
- Keep animal nails trimmed
- Never slide furniture across floor without pads
- Keep floors clean
- Never use water or wet type cleaning tools

PLEASE NOTE: It is normal to have occasional sounds walking over any floating floor since it is not nailed or glued. This does not diminish the warranty of the product and should be anticipated. Sounds may vary or go away during heating and cooling seasons throughout the year that relate to the home's relative humidity fluctuations.