

Installation Guide

How to install standard underlayment for your new floor

The main purpose of the flooring underlayment is to allow your floating floor to shrink expand as the room temperature and humidity changes. Floating floors are not permanently attached to your subfloor, and to help avoid damaging friction you need underlayment, which will give your floor smooth surface to float on.

Standard Foam Underlayment is the most common type of flooring padding. It is suitable for laminate wood flooring, engineered wood hardwood floor and /or any other type of floating floor.

This underlayment is simply a thin foam padding, about 1/8" thick. Made out of polyethylene or polypropylene it usually comes in rolls. The size of the roll ranges anywhere from 100 to 1,500 square feet.

Standard underlayment provides very basic sound reduction, thermal R-value and sub-floor correction.

In general, flooring underlayment gets laid down over the subfloor before installing the floating floor. Standard foam underlayment is suitable for installation over wood, plywood, OSB subfloor, and other places where there is no possibility of moisture coming up from the subfloor.

Step 1: Remove

Your very first step should be to remove your existing floor that is currently covering your room; this will include removal of the carpet as well as carpet padding. Carpet padding is too thick and cannot be used as an underlayment for floating types of flooring. We are getting a lot of questions about removal of the linoleum or commercial carpets. You can keep them as long as the manufacturer of your floor allows it, and they are even and flat.

You will also need to remove any existing quarter round molding as well as wall base prior to the installation

Step 2: Clean Your Subfloor

The surface of the subfloor must be clean. Using your broom or vacuum cleaner, clean your subfloor from all loose debris and dirt before moving forward with the foam underlayment installation.



Step 3: Inspect Your Sub-Floor

After your subfloor is nice and clean it is time for an inspection. It is a very important task that's very often neglected. Make sure to carefully inspect your subfloor and make sure it's flat, in good repair, and dry.

Step 4: Fix Your Subfloor

If you noticed any issues with your subfloor, take time to address it before moving forward. Your subfloor **MUST** be FLAT. Period! To fix uneven subfloors, nail down all sticking out nails, repair or replace damaged wood subfloor and fill excessive gaps in the subfloor. Your subfloor plays a very important role in supporting your floor, so make sure to address all the issues now.

Keep few tips in mind before moving forward with the installation:

- Your subfloor must be flat
- Your subfloor must be dry – maximum acceptable moisture reading for wood subfloors is 14%
- Creaking areas must be repaired before installation
- If your subfloor sags, inspect the joints below for twists or weaknesses
- Capped or uneven areas on joints may be related to moisture damage
- Low areas must be replaced or filled with leveling formula
- Picked joints must be sanded
- Any sticking nails or screws must be removed or fixed

Step 5: Let's Get Rolling

Standard Foam Underlayment comes in rolls that range from 100 to 1,500 square feet. Don't lay out all of the underlayment at once. All you need to do is just unroll one row of the standard flooring underlayment at the moment to keep your work area nice and clean.



Step 6: Work Left to Right

Work from left to right. Butt it against your wall. Lay your floor padding in the direction you will be installing flooring planks.



Step 7: Tape Rows

Secure rows by taping them together, this will keep your underlayment in place.



Step 8: Don't Overlap

Be sure not to overlap the pieces of the underlayment when you add consecutive rows. All you have to do is butt rows together and secure them with a sticky tape.



Step 9: Work by Sections

Do not roll an entire roll of underlayment out at once. Work section by section, installing your underlayment and flooring together as you move forward. Don't rush- enjoy the moment and steadily move forward.



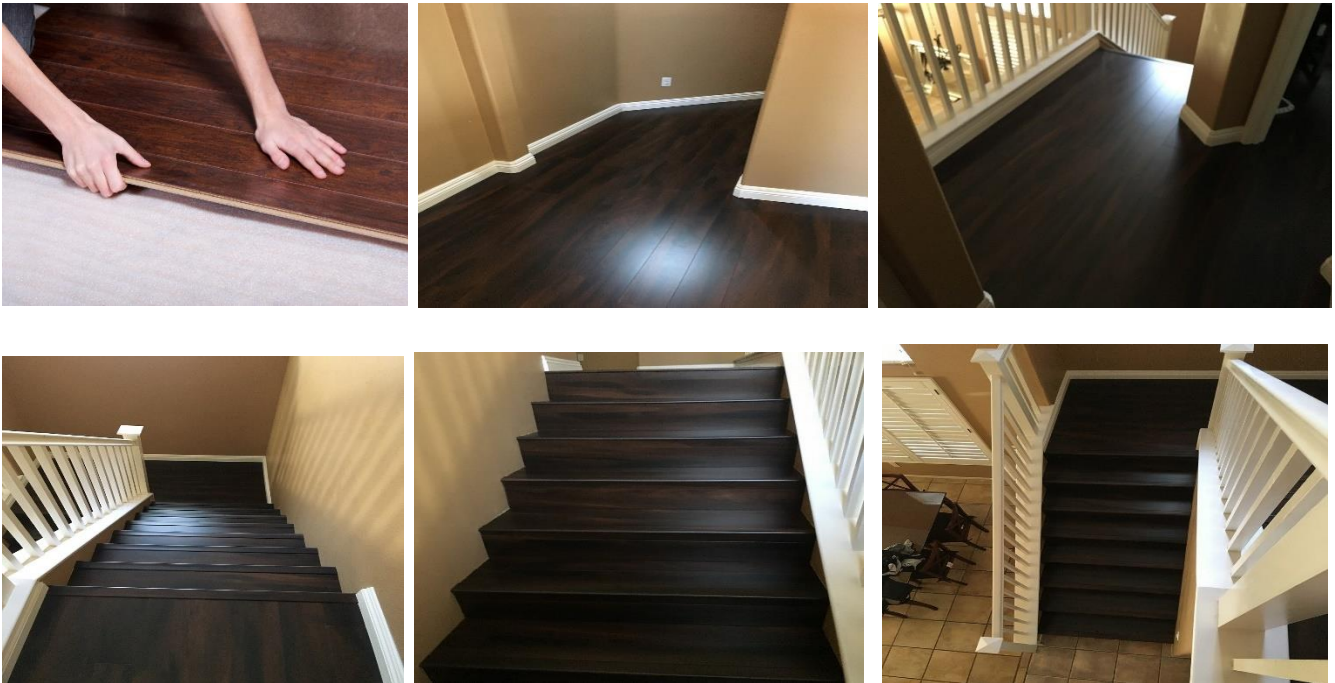
Step 10: Add Flooring

To begin laying flooring start at the corner of the room and lay plank-by-plank on top of underlayment until you reach the opposite wall. Each row should have no gaps in joints. Once your first row is complete start on the next row. Please note the joints in the flooring should not line up from one row to the next. This will help prevent the flooring from separating over time. Continue to lay rows of flooring until you are getting near the edge of underlayment. When this happened lay your next row of underlayment. Be sure to acclimate your flooring 48 hours before the installation.



Step 11: Keep Going

Install your flooring plank by plank on top of the underlayment. Continue until your project is finished.



That's all. It is not complicated, right? Installing flooring yourself can save you 25-50% on your installation project, so on an average, a 500 square feet laminate flooring project can save you approximately \$500-\$750. Nice reward for your hard work, right? Aha, one more thing, don't forget to take pictures, tons of pictures. Please share your pictures by emailing them to: sales@dekorman.com.

If you have additional tips please share them with us.

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