

## Read all instructions before installation.

Laminate flooring should never be nailed or glued to the subfloor. The floor should not be installed against any fixed, vertical objects.

### IMPORTANT

- Allow a minimum of 5/16 inch expansion space around the perimeter of the room and any fixed objects.
- Use T-mouldings for rooms wider or longer than 30 feet and openings less than 6 feet.
- Stagger boards by a minimum of 12 inches.
- Do not install in rooms with relative humidity exceeding 70%.
- Flooring should be installed and maintained in a climate controlled environment with ambient temperature between 60°F - 80°F and a relative humidity of 35% - 70%.
- The minimum length for the first and last plank per row is 12 inches.

### SUGGESTED TOOLS AND MATERIALS:

- Laminate installation kit (including spacers, tapping block, pull bar)
- Premium grade laminate flooring underlayment (for flooring without an attached pad)
- Hammer
- Table or hand saw
- Carbide-tipped circular saw blades
- Vacuum
- Tape measure
- Duct tape
- Premium laminate glue
- Sandpaper
- Level
- Age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier (0.008 inch) - for installations over concrete
- Safety glasses
- Gloves

**Caution:** use safety glasses and gloves when cutting this product. During the cutting process, laminate may create wood dust; install in a well-ventilated area.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SUBFLOORING:

Laminate flooring can be installed over most floors; substrates should be structurally sound and immobile. Before installing flooring, ensure the subfloor is leveled within 3/16 inch in 10 feet. Irregularities in the subfloor should be smoothed using a hydraulic cement base patching and leveling compound.

### Wood:

- Suspended wood subfloors should have a minimum of 18 inches of well-ventilated air space above the ground.
- The moisture content of the wood subfloor should not exceed 12%.

### Concrete:

- New concrete subflooring should be cured for at least 90 days prior to installation. (Moisture test: moisture vapor < 3 lbs/1,000 sq ft/24 hours per ASTM 1869 calcium chloride test).
- Install 0.008 inch age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier over the concrete subfloor. Tape seams with adhesive tape, such as duct tape. The vapor barrier should be installed up the wall by 1 inch.
- For sheet vinyl, tile and wood subflooring, the moisture content of the wood subfloor should not exceed 12%.

### Carpeting:

- Remove deep-pile carpeting and padding prior to installation.
- Laminate flooring can be installed over industrial direct glue-down carpeting that was installed over wood subfloors without padding.
- Carpet installed over concrete must be removed. See instructions for installation over a concrete subfloor.

### Radiant Heating Systems:

- Laminate flooring can be installed on under-floor radiant heating systems if the heating element is installed into wood or concrete subfloors.
- Lower heating system to 60°F for 1 week before installation.
- After installation, slowly increase the temperature in increments of 10°F per hour
- Surface temperature must not exceed 85°F.
- Follow installation instructions for wood or concrete as outlined above.

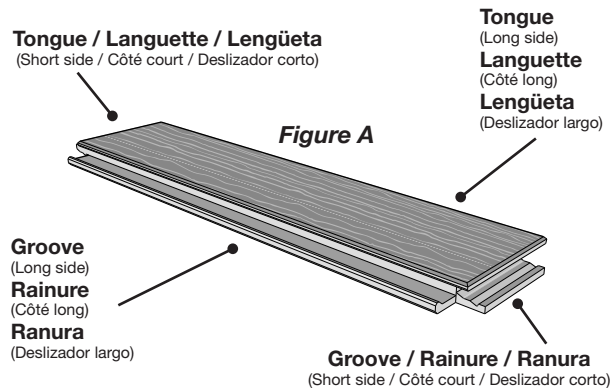
### CONDITIONING:

Allow laminate flooring to acclimate to room temperature (between 65F-75°F) by placing the packaged flooring flat in the room for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Do not remove the plastic wrapping.

### ROOM PREPARATION:

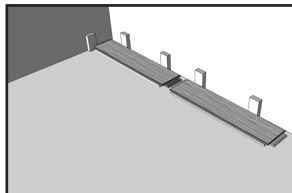
1. Remove all existing mouldings.
2. If room has electric baseboard heaters, leave a minimum of 1/2 inch between the surface of the flooring and the bottom of the heaters, allowing heat to circulate.
3. Check door clearances and make necessary adjustments before laying the flooring. Door mouldings (jamb) should be undercut to accommodate the thickness of the flooring as well as the underlayment (whether pre-attached or installed separately).
4. Install underlayment per manufacturer's instructions (for flooring without attached pad).
5. Inspect each plank for defects prior to installation. Do not install defective planks; installation of defective planks implies acceptance of material.
6. Determine which direction to lay the planks. If installing in narrow hallways or small rooms, the area will appear larger if flooring is laid parallel to the longest wall.

It is important to understand the parts of the plank to ensure proper installation:



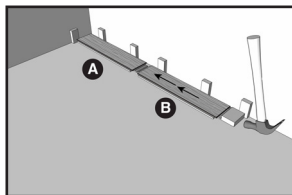
**NOTE:** ILLUSTRATION IS NOT TO SCALE. FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

**STEP 1** – Begin laying planks left to right, placing 5/16 inch spacers between the wall and the plank on either side of the joint. Note: Ensure the tongue side of the plank is positioned against the wall.

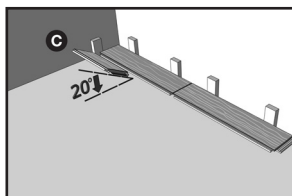


**STEP 2** – Use a laminate flooring tapping block to gently tap second plank against the short side to join plank A and plank B.

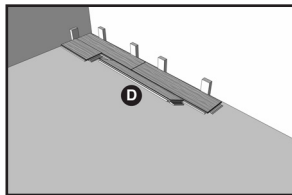
Refer to CUTTING A PLANK before proceeding to step 3.



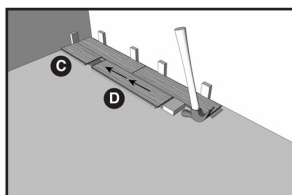
**STEP 3** – Install the second row by angling plank C to allow the tongue to slip into the groove of the plank in row 1. Push the plank flat to the floor until it clicks into place. **CAUTION:** Do not force the plank closed, and never tap the long side of the plank.



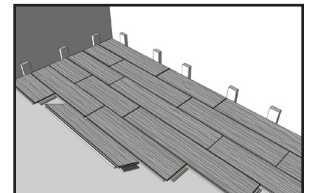
**STEP 4** – The next plank (plank D) should be installed with the tongue on the left side of the plank next to the previous plank. Push plank flat to the floor as in step 3.



**STEP 5** – Once plank is flat, gently tap the second plank against the short side of plank C, joining plank C and D.

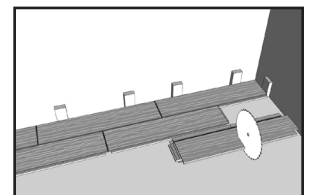


**STEP 6** – Continue laying the floor from left to right, as described in steps 1 to 5.

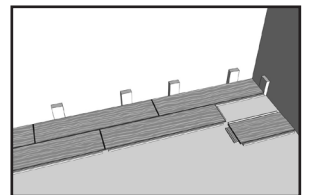


### CUTTING A PLANK:

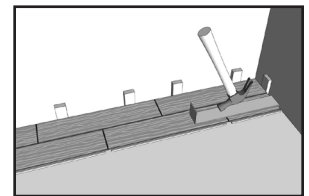
**STEP 1** – If you need to cut a plank in order to achieve a desired staggered look or because the last (or first) plank in a row is too long (but not less than 12 inches), flip a full-sized plank over so the tongue points toward the wall, with the underside of the plank facing up. Mark where the plank should be cut, then cut with the decor side down.



**STEP 2** – Flip the plank back over (décor side up) so the tongue faces the groove of the adjacent plank; install as shown in step 4.



**STEP 3** – Tap the two sides together using a pull bar. If the remainder of the previous plank is at least 12 inches long, use it to start the next row.



### FINAL INSTALLATION:

In difficult-to-fit areas, such as door mouldings, remove the lip on the groove edge of the planks you are fitting into. This can be done by lightly sanding or planing off the lip of the plank, allowing the plank to be installed laying flat. Once the lip has been trimmed on the plank being fitted to, lay the plank down flat on the floor. Apply a thin bead of premium laminate glue on the top of the tongue, then push the plank into position. Once the plank is positioned, wipe off excess glue with a damp cloth and warm water.

Remove the spacers placed along the perimeter of the room and cover the expansion space with the appropriate moulding. Be sure to fasten the moulding into the wall, not through the flooring. Quarter-rounds should be pre-drilled before nailing them to the wall.

Felt protection pads should be placed under furniture legs or other heavy objects to be left in place for an extended period of time. Do not drag or pull heavy furniture, as doing so will damage the floor.

### CLEANING AND CARE:

- Vacuum using a soft bristle brush attachment. Do NOT use vacuums with beater bars as doing so can damage your floor.
- Laminate floors may be lightly damp-mopped when needed. Avoid standing water as it may cause the joints between the planks to lift. Do NOT use steam cleaners, jet-mops or any mop that sprays liquid directly onto the floor. Apply cleaning solution formulated for laminate flooring to a cloth or mop, not directly to the floor. Clean floor in the same direction as the planks.
- Any furniture that rests directly on top of a laminate floor should have floor protectors or wide furniture coasters under all feet. Placement of mats at all outside entrances and heavy traffic areas is recommended.
- Do not use oil soaps or wax-based cleaning products. These products will leave a dull finish on your floor. Use a floor cleaner specifically formulated for cleaning laminate flooring.
- Pets' claws may scratch the surface if not trimmed regularly.
- When liquids are spilled on the laminate flooring, use a slightly damp white cloth or paper towel to immediately blot up and dry the affected area.

### FOR ASSISTANCE, CALL:

1-877-356-0312

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