

Discount Flooring Supplies

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAMINATE FLOORS.

- Let the planks acclimatize for 48 hours in the unopened packaging at the normal room temperature, in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed. The ideal conditions are 15-22°C at a relative humidity of 30-75%. If climate conditions are outside this 30-75% range, we strongly advise to acclimatize for 1 week with opened packages.
- Remove any damp-porous floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc.) first. Damp-sealed floor covering (PVC, linoleum, VCT, etc.) does not have to be removed. Always use an underlay.
- **WOODEN SUBFLOOR:** Remove any existing floor covering first. No signs of mold and/or insect infestations should be present. Make sure the sub floor is level. Nail down any loose parts. If the wooden sub floor is flat (no unevenness greater than 2 mm over the length of 1 meter)
- Make sure the sub floor is level. Any unevenness greater than 2 mm over the length of 1 meter must be smoothed out. The same applies to any unevenness of more than 1 mm over a length of 20 cm.
- Make sure that the floor base is flat, clean, firm, and dry.
- Check all panels before and during installation. Defective panels must never be used.
- Check that the doors can still open and close after the floor and underlay have been installed.
- Cooking islands for kitchens and other very heavy objects should be installed first and not placed

on top of the laminate. The laminate floor must be able to move around the heavy objects to avoid open joints and separating planks.

- Make sure the panels are mixed sufficiently when you install them, so that you do not end up with too many identical, light or dark panels next to each other. To obtain the best visual effect, it is best to fit the floorboards in the direction of the longest wall and parallel to the incidence of light.
- Before starting, carefully measure the length and the width of the room to plan a precise layout to achieve a balanced appearance of the floor. This is very important when installing typical tile decors. This will ensure also you won't end up with the last row being too narrow. If the last row would be less than 40 mm, the installation will be easier if you cut down the planks of the first row in the length.
- First install the underlay, per width and gradually as you progress. It is vital that you use underlays to smooth any unevenness in the base floor.
- Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and the short sides
- Put the plank with sawn off sides against the walls. Put spacers between the planks and the wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 8 to 10 mm
- With lengths of more than 11 m and widths of more than 11 m, there should be an intermediate expansion joint. The swelling and shrinking is linear, so the bigger the surface, the bigger the play at the edge has to be.
- Room humidity can vary according to the season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. For this reason, make sure you leave an expansion joint of minimum 8 to 10 mm on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds and under doors. Expansion joints can be finished by means of a skirting that is attached to the sub floor. It is mandatory to provide an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. under the door).