



## INSTALLATION GUIDE - LAMINATE FLOORING

Before you begin installation, please read all notes and instructions carefully.

Inspect all material carefully for color, finish, sheen and defects PRIOR to installation. Material with visible defects found after installation are not covered under warranty. Installation implies acceptance of the quality, dimensions, and appearance of the flooring. If you are not satisfied with your flooring, please contact our customer support team and do not install until concerns have been addressed and you are satisfied with your flooring.

### THINGS TO NOTE

- This flooring is intended for indoor use only.
- Because your flooring has been stored in a warehouse and potentially shipped in a semi-trailer truck, we recommend a 48-hour acclimation period for both residential and commercial installation to allow the floor to sit and be brought up to normal living conditions.
- Laminate flooring can be heavier than expected. Always use proper lifting techniques with handling. Whenever possible, use material handling equipment and/or have assistance from shipping and handling professionals.
- Store product boxes flat and ensure they are fully supported during any handling and storage. Stack no more than 8 cartons high and keep the boxes away from direct sunlight. Rough handling can cause damage to the flooring prior to installation.
- Samples are designed to be a representation of the actual product. Samples under varying light sources including sunlight and room lighting may result in a difference of appearance of the flooring under each condition. We always recommend ordering a sample and assessing it in the space of intended use by laying the sample flat on the floor under various light settings.
- Avoid direct sunlight exposure to minimize the effects of fading of the flooring. Prolonged UV exposure will likely have a uniform fading effect on building materials.
- Door jambs are recommended to be undercut to the thickness of the flooring.
- Cabinets cannot be installed on top of flooring.
- Leave a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " expansion gap between flooring planks and all surrounding walls and neighboring floors.
- Areas over 80' long or 80' wide require transition pieces.
- Do not nail or screw anything through floated floors. Wall moldings and transition accessories cannot be fastened to the planks.
- Lay out the flooring, mixing boards from 2-3 boxes to minimize color and pattern repetition PRIOR to installation.

For more information or questions about this product, please contact your Tropical Flooring dealer.

- Only install flooring after the jobsite has been thoroughly cleaned and subfloor completely dry and flat to avoid damage during installation.
- Flooring should always be the final step in a renovation project. No other tradework should be occurring at the time of flooring installation. Doing so may affect interior conditions.

**CAUTION - WOOD DUST:** *The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified wood dust as a natural carcinogen. Sawing, sanding, and/or machining wood products can produce wood dust that can cause respiratory, eye, and skin irritations. Equipment should include a dust collector to reduce wood dust in the air. Sweep or vacuum dust for recovery or disposal. Wear a designated dust mask to reduce exposure to wood dust. Avoid dust contact with eyes and skin. Wear gloves and safety glasses when handling and machining the product. In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes. If other side effects occur, request medical assistance immediately.*

*Attention California Installers and Consumers: The installation of this product is known to the State of California to cause cancer.*

### **TOOLS REQUIRED**

- Electric saw (carbide blade)
- Hammer, Pull Bar
- Utility Knife
- Wood Chisel
- Wall Spacers (1/4")
- Tape Measure
- Straight Edge (6 ft)
- Painter's Tape
- Glue
- Pencil
- Broom
- Eye and Ear Protection

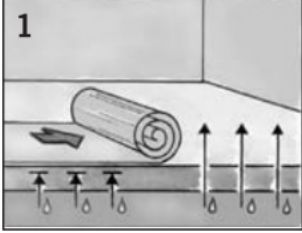
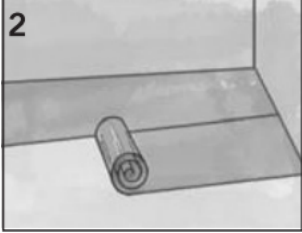
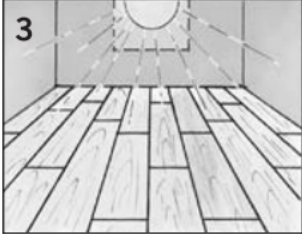
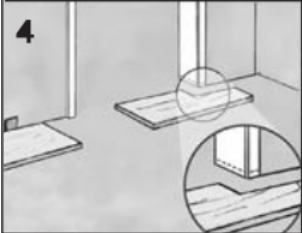
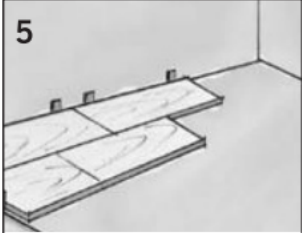
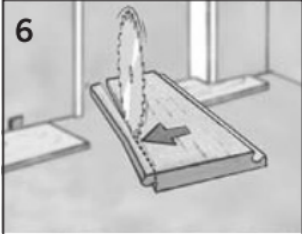
### **SUITABLE SUBFLOORS**

- Existing floor surfaces including hardwood floors, linoleum, resilient vinyl, PVC (plastic floor surfaces must be permanently attached to the subfloor), needle felt (dry) ceramic flooring.
- Cement floors on all grades/elevations (maximum residual moisture 2.0 CM%). With a calcium chloride test, the maximum acceptable reading is 5.0 lbs/24 hours/1000 sq ft.
- Anhydrite an Anhydrite tiles (max residual moisture 0.3 CM%)
- Magnesium Cement (max residual moisture 0.3 CM%)

### **INSTALLATION GUIDELINES**

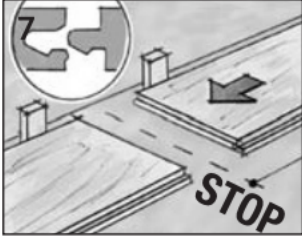
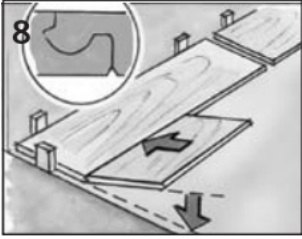
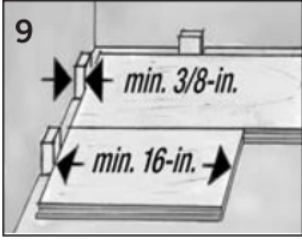
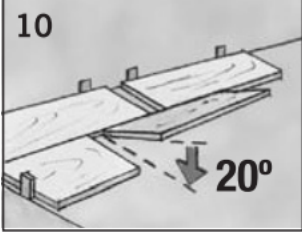
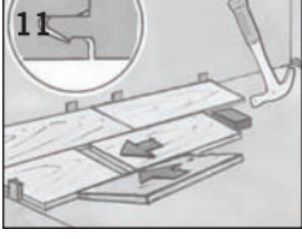
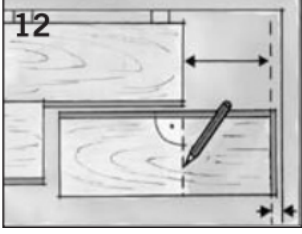
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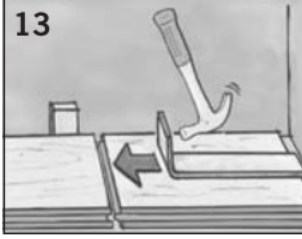
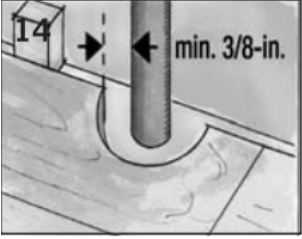
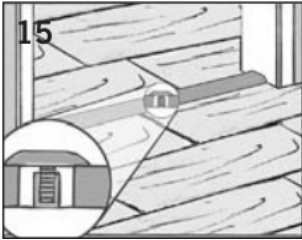
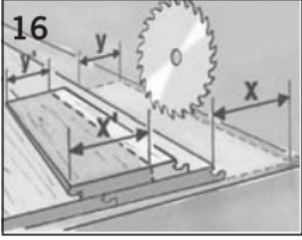
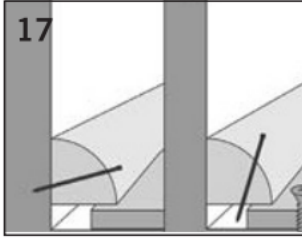
	<p>1 Install vapor barrier if the subfloor is cement (6 mil polyethylene film).</p>
	<p>2 Always use an underlayment padding above the vapor barrier and below the laminate flooring planks. If pad is pre-attached, no additional underlayment should be used.</p>
	<p>3 Install parallel to the main light source. If there is no exterior light source, install parallel to the longest wall.</p>
	<p>4 If possible, start to lay panels under the door jam and finish installing planks on a wall without a door jam. See "Working with Limited Clearance" section.</p>
	<p>5 Start placing panels so that tongue sides face the wall.</p>
	<p>6 Remove the tongue on the panels that face the walls to allow room for spacers and prevent problems from spills.</p>

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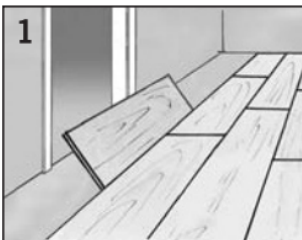
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	<p>Lay panels close together on the floor.</p>
	<p>Rock and lock in a half-length panel with rotating motion. Install the first and second row at the same time. This will help ensure end joints are perfectly square. Planks forced down without properly engaging the tongue into the groove can result in damage.</p>
	<p>Observe 3/8" clearances for expansion and 16" minimum for smallest usable piece.</p>
	<p>Lock in panel lengthwise. Allow 12" minimum end-joint stagger row to row.</p>
	<p>Use a 4"-6" piece to hold the tongue and groove on the same plane, limit end joint damage and ensure planks engage square. Tap end joints with multiple light taps, striking the tapping block evenly until end joints close. NOTE: Tapping too hard or striking the tapping block unevenly can result in installation-related damage or peaking.</p>
	<p>To measure and cut the last piece in a row, rotate the offcut section 180°, mark accordingly, cut, rotate back 180° and slot into space.</p>

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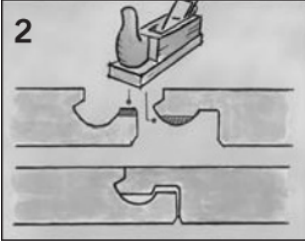
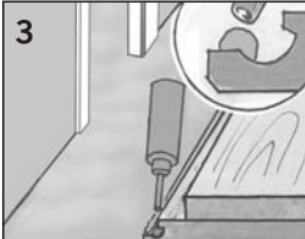
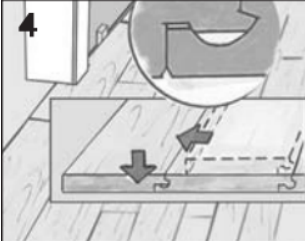
	<p>Fit the last panel in the row using a pull bar.</p>
	<p>Always allow for expansion around fixed objects.</p>
	<p>An expansion gap T-strip is required when length of planks measures 40' max and when width of planks measures 25' max. Transition strips should be placed in all doorways directly under the door when the door is closed.</p>
	<p>Cut the row along the wall to account for the unevenness of the wall while leaving 3/8" expansion room (2.5" minimum plank width).</p>
	<p>Ensure the laminate floor is able to expand.</p>

**WORKING WITH LIMITED CLEARANCE**

	<p>Some long edge joints cannot be installed using a 20° angle.</p>
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	<p>Remove the top part of the tongue and groove profiles.</p>
	<p>Use quality wood glue to make the connection.</p>
	<p>Slide panel into space horizontally and slot into profile. Use these modified planks under door frames, radiators, cabinet fronts, etc. Use the pull bar to slide the planks where necessary.</p>