

INSTALLATION GUIDE

November
2024

Thank you for choosing our flooring. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years. Please read all the instructions and follow all recommendations before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void the warranty.

Check-off each Item	Item	Standard	Why it is critical
	Subfloor flatness	Subfloor must be flat within 3/16" / 5 mm over a 10' / 3 m radius.	A non-flat subfloor can cause gapping, buckling, and damage to the locking system.
	Subfloor moisture	ASTM F2170 RH 90% ASTM F1869 8 lb/1000 ft² / 3.63 kg/92 m² CM 2.5% ASTM F2659 MC 4.0	Subfloor moisture can cause site-related issues which might lead to an installation failure, alkali salt buildup damage to joints, and a potential mold source. 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly sheeting is required on concrete substrates.
	Subfloor deflection	Subfloor must be structurally sound with no up-and-down movement.	Subfloor deflection will cause gapping and joint damage to the locking mechanism.
	Approved substrate	No soft substrates.	Additional soft underlayment is not to be used and will void the warranty. Cushioned vinyl, floating floors, and carpets are not suitable substrates. Vinyl flooring should never be installed over wood that is installed over concrete doing so will void the warranty.
	Inspect planks	Inspect planks to be installed closely for visible damage.	Prior to installation, inspect the material in daylight for visible faults/damage, including defects or discrepancies in color or shine; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
	Maintain appropriate expansion space	Floating floors must be free to move.	Improper expansion can cause cupping, gapping, and damage to the locking system.

I. GENERAL PREPARATIONS

TOOLS REQUIRED: Spacers, rubber mallet, ruler, pencil, tape measure, sliding T bevel, utility knife, tapping block, 6 mil / 0.15 mm moisture barrier, square, transition moldings, jamb saw, chalk line, eye protection, level, knee pads (optional), broom or vacuum.

- Prior to installation, inspect the material in daylight for visible faults/damage, including defects or discrepancies in color or shine; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
- It is preferable to lay boards following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, make sure to always work from 2 to 3 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.
- Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If the subfloor is not within specifications, DO NOT INSTALL, and contact your supplier.
- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport and handle the cartons in a manner to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on edge.
- Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle; get assistance.
- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 10% of flooring for cutting allowance.
- The environment where the flooring is to be installed is critically important with regard to successful installation and continued performance of the flooring products. The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. These interior locations must meet climatic and structural requirements as well.
- In most cases, this product does not need to be acclimated. However, if the boxes of flooring were exposed for over 2 hours to extreme temperatures under 50°F / 10°C or over 90°F / 32°C within 12 hours before the installation, acclimation is required. In this case, keep the boards at room temperature for at least 12 hours in an unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be maintained consistently between 50-90°F / 10-32°C before and during the installation.
- The flooring should only be installed in temperature ranges between 50-90°F / 10-32°C, it is necessary to maintain a constant temperature before and during the installation. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- After installation, make sure that the flooring is not exposed to temperatures less than 0°F / -18°C or greater than 140°F / 60°C.
- For floor surfaces exceeding 6400 ft² / 620 m² and/or lengths exceeding 80 ft / 25 m, use expansion moldings.

II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

- The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is structurally sound, clean, dry, and smooth. Subfloor variations should not exceed 3/16" / 5 mm in a 10' / 3 m radius.
- The substrate should not slope more than 1" / 25 mm per 6 ft / 2 m in any direction.
- Depressions, deep grooves, expansion joints, and other subfloor imperfections must be filled with patching & leveling compound.
- Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, and any foreign matter and contaminants.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents, or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- Although this floor is waterproof, it is not to be used as a moisture barrier.
- This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats, RVs, lanais, rooms that are prone to flooding, or rooms or homes that are not temperature-controlled.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors must not be cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will diminish the product's inherent strength in the clicking mechanism and resisting indentations and could void the warranty.
- Acceptable job site conditions, including subfloor moisture conditions, must be maintained throughout the lifetime of the flooring.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.
- Wood subfloors must have no more than 12% MC (moisture content).
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.
- We recommend laying the flooring crossways to the existing floorboards.
- All other subfloors - plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.
- DO NOT install over sleeper construction subfloors or wood subfloors applied directly over concrete.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue.
- The subfloor must be dry. With a pH limit of 9 and comply with moisture content requirements and tested as per the below methods:
 - Concrete moisture vapor emission must not exceed 8 lb / 3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft² / 93 m² per 24 hours. This can be measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869).
 - 90% RH (ASTM F2170).
 - Max. 2.5% moisture content (CM method / ASTM F2659).
 - Max. 4.0 MC as per ASTM F2659 (a meter calibrated for concrete and qualified by gravimetric testing must be used).
- A minimum of 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required as a moisture barrier between the concrete subfloor and the flooring.

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING IF THE EXISTING FLOORING IS SUITABLE TO BE INSTALLED OVER RESTS SOLELY WITH THE INSTALLER/FLOORING CONTRACTOR ON SITE. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO SUITABILITY, THE EXISTING FLOORING SHOULD BE REMOVED, OR AN ACCEPTABLE UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLED OVER IT. INSTALLATIONS OVER EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INDENTATION.

DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Any type of carpet.
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.
- Floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.
- Hardwood flooring / wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In-floor Radiant Heat: Flooring can be installed over 1/2" / 12 mm embedded radiant heat using the floating method. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F / 30°C. The use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system.
- Make sure that the temperature in the room is maintained consistently between 50-90°F / 10-32°C before and during the installation.
- Once the installation is completed, the heating system should be turned on at the ambient temperature and gradually increased in 9°F / 5°C increments every 12 hours until reaching normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

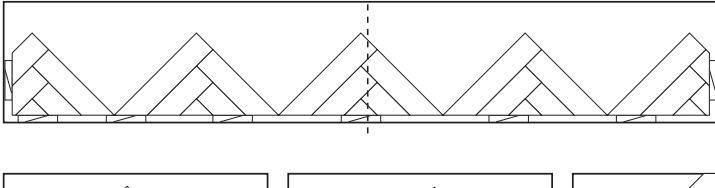
Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install the flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

Tip: The best idea to maximize the results of your heating system is to have "ON" times with a comfortable temperature and "OFF" times with setback temperatures which are normally 8°F / 4°C lower than your comfort temperature. The setback temperatures are particularly important as these won't let the temperature of your room drop too much, meaning it is much quicker to heat your room back to comfort levels when it's needed.

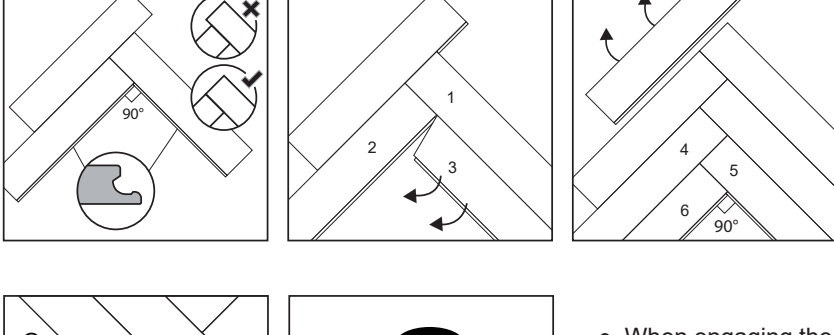
III. INSTALLATION

- Remove trim molding, wall base, appliances, and furniture from the room. For the best results, door jambs must be undercut to allow the flooring to move freely without being pinned. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.
- With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave a 1/4" / 6 mm gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed.
- **NOTE:** DO NOT FILL IN THE EXPANSION GAPS WITH SILICONE. FOR INSTALLATION IN BATHROOMS AND OTHER WET ROOMS, SEE THE "INSTALLATION IN WET AREAS" SECTION.
- Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate.
- Do not install your kitchen cabinets directly over your floor. Built-in cabinets, kitchen cabinets, islands, and similar heavy items must be installed first. Only then can the flooring be installed, leaving an appropriate expansion gap around it. This gap will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed. The quality of the floor can only be guaranteed if it is allowed to move freely. It must not be nailed, adhered, or fastened to the subfloor in any way.
- **UNDERLAY:** If the floor DOES NOT HAVE a pre-attached underlayment, an additional underlayment is recommended in order to improve acoustic performance and absorb some irregularities on the substrate. Best results can be expected with an underlayment of 0.04" / 1 mm maximum thickness with a high density (>8.4 lb/ft³ / >135 kg/m³), high compressive strength (≥200 kPa according to EN 16354, ASTM D3575-20, Suffix D), and <10% thickness change (according to ASTM D3575-20, Suffix B) that supports the click system during daily use. Thicker underlayments, underlayments with a low density and inadequate compressive strength could damage the locking mechanism and will void the warranty.
- If the floor HAS a pre-attached underlayment, the use of an additional underlayment could damage the locking mechanism and will VOID warranty.
- **CUTTING TIPS:** To cut the plank, use a utility knife, a ruler, and a sliding T bevel for accurate angles. First, measure with the ruler and mark the cut line using the sliding T bevel and a pencil. With the top side facing up, cut heavily and several times along the marked line with the utility knife. The knife will create a deep cut without cutting through the surface. Lift one half of the plank while holding down the other side near the cut, allowing the plank to split naturally. For easier cuts, consider using a laminate or vinyl flooring cutter.
- **NOTE:** Traditional Herringbone products typically have two types of planks with two directions (see groove facing Left and groove facing Right), where planks are marked A and B and are to be separated into two piles. This product, however, is a single plank Herringbone and does not require two types of planks.

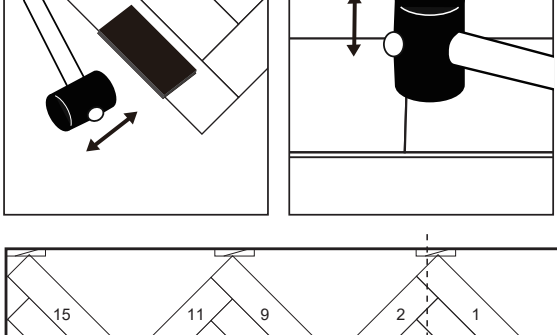
METHOD 1 - FISHBONE PATTERN



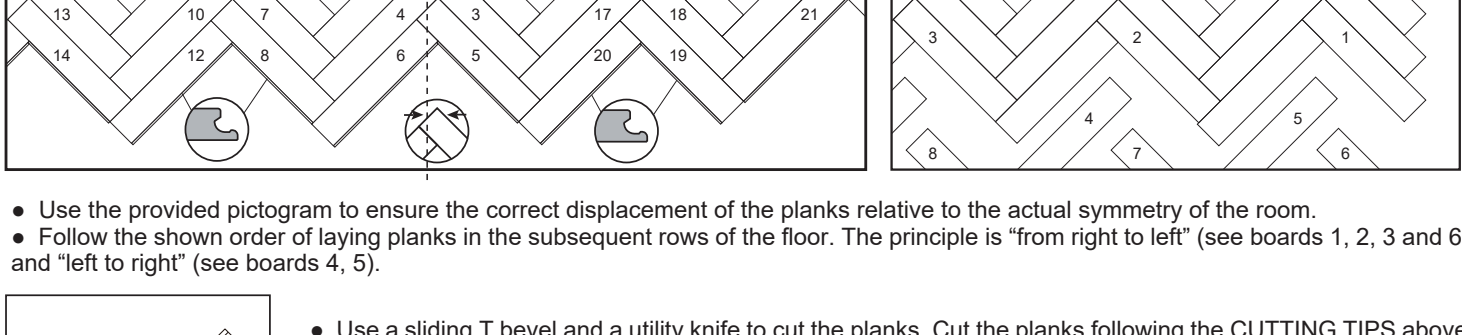
- Align the first starting set with a chalk line going through the center line of the room (to center the installation, make sure the line goes through the middle of the short side of the planks).



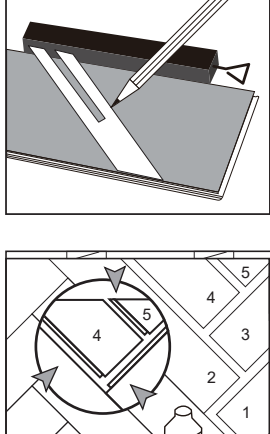
- Use a support board to align the first planks. When laying planks, ensure that the groove of the board is inside.



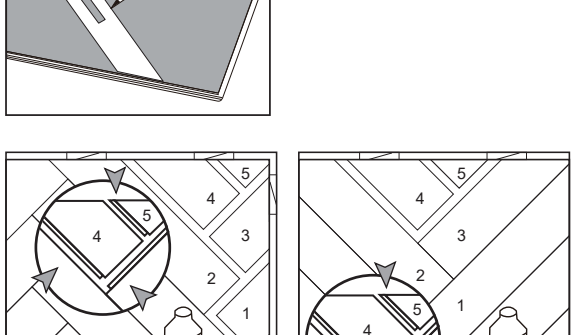
- When engaging the planks, ensure they are fully engaged by lightly tapping horizontally with a tapping block on both the long and short sides, and vertically with a rubber mallet on the short side.
- Continue installing the planks (see additional installation tips below).
- After laying the first 3 rows of planks, remove the support board. Move the planks to the wall of the room. Use spacers to leave a 1/4" / 6 mm expansion gap with the wall.



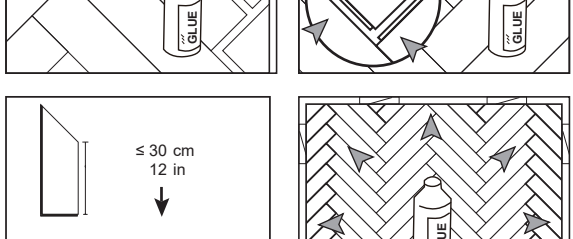
- Use the provided pictogram to ensure the correct displacement of the planks relative to the actual symmetry of the room.
- Follow the shown order of laying planks in the subsequent rows of the floor. The principle is "from right to left" (see boards 1, 2, 3 and 6, 7, 8) and "left to right" (see boards 4, 5).



- Use a sliding T bevel and a utility knife to cut the planks. Cut the planks following the CUTTING TIPS above and install them in the sequence shown in the pictograms.




- **IMPORTANT:** Apply a high-grab high-shear hard-setting adhesive to the groove of each plank on both the long and short sides if the length of the plank is less than 12" / 30 cm. Avoid using excessive adhesive and immediately wipe away any excess that appears on the floor's surface.

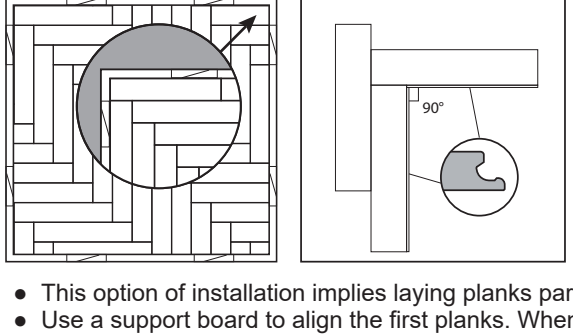


- **IMPORTANT:** Apply a high-grab high-shear hard-setting adhesive to the groove of each plank on both the long and short sides if the length of the plank is less than 12" / 30 cm or the width of the plank is less than 5" / 13 cm. Avoid using excessive adhesive and immediately wipe away any excess that appears on the floor's surface.

METHOD 2 - FISHBONE DIAGONAL PATTERN



- This option of installation implies laying planks parallel to the walls of the room, starting from the left far corner.
- Use a support board to align the first planks. When laying planks, ensure that the groove of the board is inside.
- Continue installing the planks (see additional installation tips below). After laying the first 3 rows of planks, remove the support board.
- Move the planks to the corner of the room. Use spacers to leave a 1/4" / 6 mm expansion gap with the wall. Use a sliding T bevel and a utility knife to cut the planks, following the CUTTING TIPS above, and install them in the sequence shown in the pictogram.



- **IMPORTANT:** Apply a high-grab high-shear hard-setting adhesive to the groove of each plank on both the long and short sides if the length of the plank is less than 12" / 30 cm or the width of the plank is less than 5" / 13 cm. Avoid using excessive adhesive and immediately wipe away any excess that appears on the floor's surface.

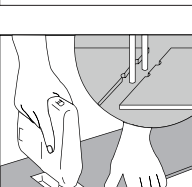
TIPS:

- To prevent shifting during further installation, it's advisable to sit with your knees or stand with your feet on the already installed panels.
- For an easier start to the installation, assemble the first 10 planks away from the wall so you can sit on them during assembly. Then, slide the first 10 planks into the desired position near the wall with distance spacers in place. Use a thin rope alongside the installed planks to check and adjust their straightness. Additional checks of straightness are recommended throughout the installation. Remember to use distance spacers for the 1/4" / 6 mm expansion gap along the perimeter.
- Once installation is complete, remove the spacers to allow your floor to expand and contract freely.

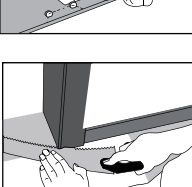
CLICKING TIPS

Place the short end tight to perpendicular plank. Click it into the long end of the parallel panel at a 45° angle. Fold down in a single movement. It is recommended to slightly tap the planks on the edge after clicking them together to make sure they are clicked tightly and aligned perfectly.

IMPORTANT: If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well-locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble, and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing. Failure to properly line up the end joint and attempting to force it in while out of alignment could result in permanent damage to the end joint.



- **Holes for pipes:**
Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 13/16" / 20 mm larger. Saw off a piece as shown in the figure and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawed-off piece in place.



- **Door molding:**
Lay a board (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and saw as shown in the figure. Then slide the floorboard under the molding.

INSTALLATION IN WET AREAS

IMPORTANT: This product is not warranted for installation in wet areas with running water and areas with built-in drains, e.g., pool or shower areas.

- Use a T-molding to separate the wet area from the rest of the installation.
- Fill the expansion spaces with a compressible PE foam backer rod and cover them with a flexible 100% silicone sealant around the entire perimeter of the installation before installing moldings. Branded and generic silicone tubes are available at any local home center or hardware store. **IMPORTANT:** Do not use acrylic sealant.
- Apply silicone sealant to connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.

IV. FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

- Protect all exposed edges of the flooring by installing wall molding and/or transition strips. Allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Make sure that no plank will be secured in any way to the subfloor.
- At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, the use of a transition molding is required to cover the exposed edge but do not pinch the planks. Leave a 1/4" / 6 mm gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

V. MAINTENANCE

- When possible, use appropriate window coverings, such as drapes, window treatments, or UV-tinting on windows, to protect the product from direct sunlight as long-term exposure to intense heat.
- Sweep or vacuum daily using soft bristle attachments. Do not use a vacuum equipped with a beater bar.
- Do not buff or sand the surface.
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Damp mop as needed and use neutral cleaners recommended for vinyl flooring.
- The use of residential steam mops and spray mops on this product is allowed. Use at the lowest power with a suitable soft pad, and do not hold a steam mop on one spot for an extended period of time (longer than 30 seconds). Refer to the mop's manufacturer instructions for proper usage.
- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture. Equip wheeled-type office chairs and other rolling furniture with wide-surface, casters at least 2" / 5 cm in diameter.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. Do not use mats with latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach, or wax to maintain the floor.
- For stubborn spills use low odor mineral spirits or denatured alcohol applied to a clean cloth. Never pour chemicals directly on the floor.
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.

VI. DISASSEMBLING

To disassemble, simply lift the planks one by one following the opposite sequence as the installation.