

Laminate

Installation Guide

Laminate floors are the most popular choice of wood flooring due to the fact that they are very easy to install. They can be installed in all areas of the house, except bathrooms and wet rooms, and are suitable for use over any type of subfloor including those with under floor heating.

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Storage

Decorating and remodelling a home is a time-consuming process that can become even longer when little problems arise. If your building project exceeds the original time frame you may need to store some of your flooring materials like Laminate. However, certain floorings can be susceptible to damage caused by incorrect temperature and humidity levels in their environment. So, they must be stored properly in order for them to be viable for use when you're ready to bring your flooring in to the room where it will be acclimatised. If you make the effort to store your flooring properly, you can avoid having to deal with damage or replacements later.

While it may be required to leave your flooring in the garage for a few days before bring it inside to acclimatise, these conditions are not acceptable for long-term storage. Flooring must be kept in properly enclosed surroundings that have a secure roof and weatherproof windows. Extreme temperatures and excess moisture can irreparably damage flooring so it is important to select an area that will protect your flooring from exposure to the elements.



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If your flooring is exposed to freezing temperatures or extreme heat, this can lead to cracking or warping. In order to prevent this damage, if you are not sure, speak to our Customer Sales Team about what temperature and humidity is ideal for storing your particular type of flooring, and do what you can to control the temperature in your temporary storage area.

All flooring needs to be kept clean and dry, so air circulation is also a concern. Clean air should be allowed to circulate among the stacks of flooring; you may need to install fans if your building has poor air flow.

The flooring should be laid down horizontally onto a flat surface, and never propped up against a wall, as this is very likely to cause the flooring to warp and bow.

As a general guide, look at Temperatures in the region of 18-24°C and Relative Humidity 45-60%. (Please refer to the manufacturer's guides upon delivery or if you anticipate storage need contact our Customer Service Team on 08443274444)

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Acclimatisation

Laminate flooring will require 48 hours to adapt to the conditions where it is to be installed. You will need to store the packs un-opened, preferably in the centre of the room. Installation should then be carried out at a temperature no lower than 16°C, and later used in the ideal 20-22°C and with a relative humidity between 50 to 60% ranges.



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Click system floating installation is the most common and DIY friendly installation method because it is the easiest and the fastest to do and does not require any special skills or prior experience. The floor just clicks together with no need for any glue.

All floating flooring installations must use the correct underlay. Over a concrete subfloor you will need to use a superior underlay which has a built in damp proof membrane (DPM) such as Cushion Premium Black Underlay. Over a wooden subfloor you can use the Cushion Standard White Underlay or Cushion Plus White Underlay with its vapour barrier that allow the flooring and subfloor to breath. For installations over under floor heating we recommend using Cushion Ultra Silver underlay. Also for improved noise reduction we recommend the Cushion Acoustic Gold Underlay, bringing peace and quiet to the room, by reducing "Drum Sound".

Using the correct underlay can give better support to your new flooring, which in turn prolongs the life and also aids installation by removing some minor imperfections from the sub-floor.

Each board is designed with a click profile on all four sides to join the boards together. Simply insert the long side tongue into the groove at a medium angle and then push them down. The shorter end, known as the "Header Joint", will vary dependent on product chosen. You will need to refer to the manufactures guides for further product specific instructions.

You will need to leave a 15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. To maintain this gap during installation spacers are provided in our installation kit (purchased separately).



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After you have installed the floor you can cover this expansion gap with scotia beading or replace you old skirting boards with new ones, this gives a much more professional finish. An expansion gap also needs to be left in doorways where the floor follows through from one room to another or not. We have a full range of door profiles available to match your floor.

This is a brief guideline on the installation of our laminate flooring; always refer to the manufactures installation guidelines contained within packs of the flooring or visit our Flooring Manufacture Installation Guides.

If you require any further advice on installation then please call our technical department on 0844 327 5555, e-mail us on technical@ukflooringdirect.co.uk.



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