

## Herringbone Laminate Installation Guide

Laminate floors are a popular flooring choice because they're very easy to install. Our Herringbone laminate floorboards feature an easy-to-install click system. Because of this, floating installation is the most common and D.I.Y friendly installation method as it doesn't require any special skills or prior experience. The floor simply clicks together.

Laminate floors can be installed in all areas of the house (except wet rooms) and are suitable for use over any type of subfloor including underfloor heating.

### Acclimatisation and storage

Your new flooring must be acclimatised before installation – laminate flooring requires at least a 48-hour acclimatisation period. The flooring must remain in its packaging stored horizontal in the room which it is to be installed into.

Please note the room must be dry and the flooring must be laid at an ambient temperature of at least 18°C, with a floor temperature of at least 15°C. It's important to have a constant relative humidity between 50 - 60% and these conditions should also persist for three days following installation. This process helps to stabilise moisture levels as naturally as possible as laminate flooring can expand and contract slightly with changing temperature and humidity. Failure to take the necessary precautions gaps or peaks can appear, ruining the look of your floor.

### Subfloor preparation

It's essential the subfloor is dry, clean, solid and level for a successful installation. To check moisture levels, you can find appropriate electronic moisture meters in most D.I.Y stores. You must ensure the subfloor is flat, and the flatness tolerances must be observed. The installer must always check the current status of the subfloor. If it does not meet the advised requirements, then extra steps will need to be taken to level the subfloor out. In order to determine the flatness of your floor apply these tolerances: over 1m length the floor must not be more than 3mm difference and over 2m that rises to 4mm.

### Underlay

All floating flooring installations must use the correct underlay to support your new flooring. Over a concrete subfloor you will need to use a superior underlay which has a built-in damp proof membrane (DPM) such as Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay. Over a wooden subfloor you can use the Essential Plus Cushion White Underlay or Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay with their vapour barriers. Alternatively, Essential Cushion White Underlay, dependent on subfloor construction. For installations over underfloor heating we recommend using Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay – we also recommend using this underlay for improved noise reduction.

### Expansion

Depending on the climate conditions your flooring will expand or contract, it therefore needs to be kept a suitable distance away from any fixed structures such as walls, supports, door frames, radiator pipes etc., this is called the expansion gap.

It's important to leave a 10-15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. To maintain this gap during installation spacers are provided in our installation kit (purchased separately).

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.

**Please note the following:**

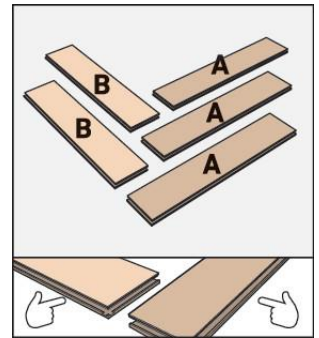
- There's little colour variation within laminate, however we still recommend opening a minimum of 3 packs, to mix up the grain pattern and any shade variation.
- All flooring will chip and scratch unless care is taken to protect it, felt pads should be used on all moveable furniture. Matting at room entrances will greatly reduce grit and dirt from being transferred onto your flooring.
- Liability for the installation remains with the installer following the fitting instructions and guides supplied.

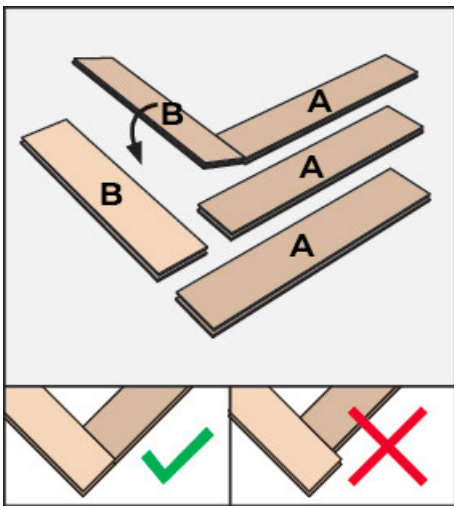
**Click together installation**

Before you begin your installation, we recommend that you sort the planks into two piles (A and B). To help you, the planks have A or B on the base.

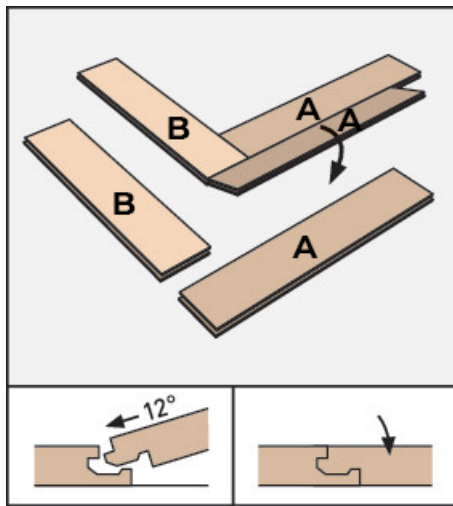
A plank of each type will be required to create the classic Herringbone Pattern. Each unit of Herringbone flooring comes with an equal number of planks, a right-handed plank and a left-handed plank will be required to form a joint.

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.

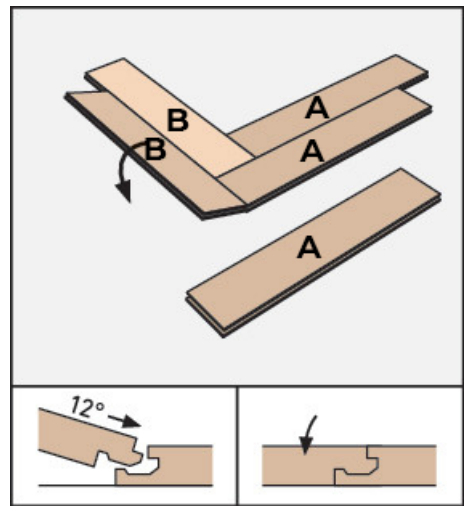




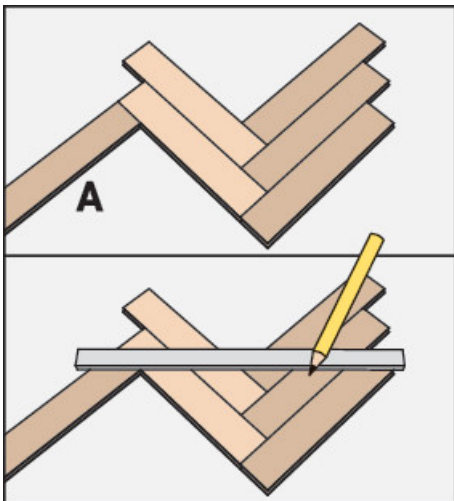
Take two B planks and three A planks. Click the first B plank into the Header Joint of the first A plank. This will form a V shape.



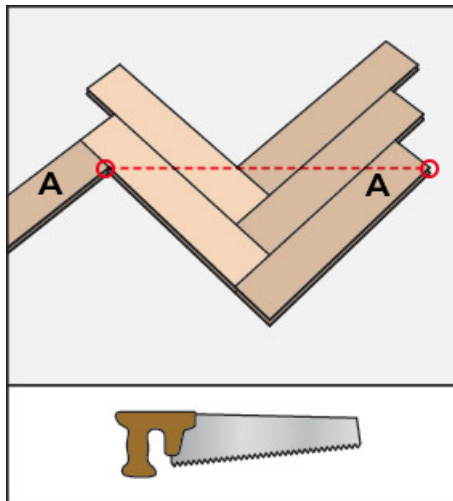
Take the second A plank and place it to the right of your V shape and click it in place.



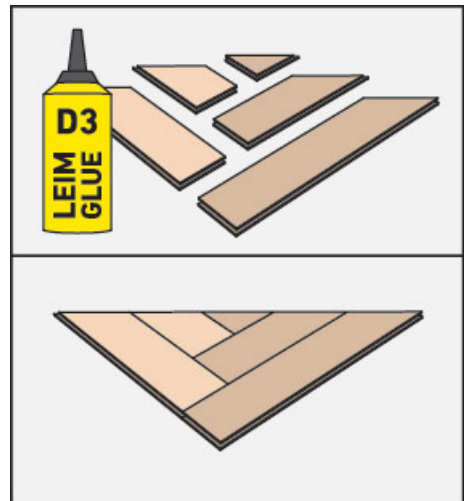
Take the second B plank, place it to the left of your V shape and click it in place. Take the third A plank, place it to the right of your V shape and click in place.



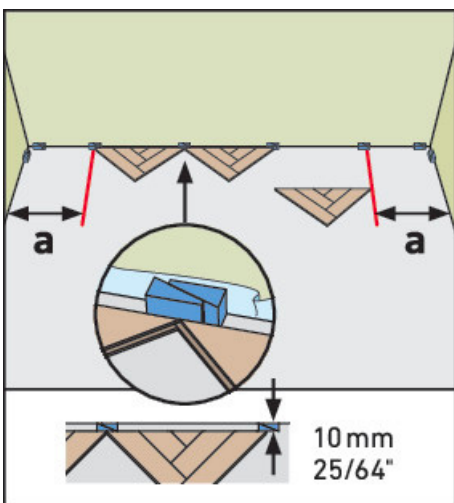
Take a fourth A plank and click the header joint in place to the second B plank.



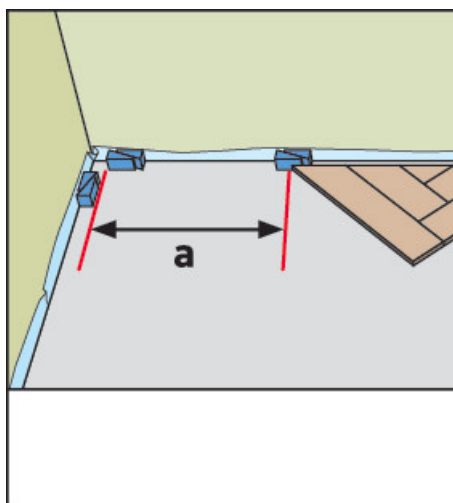
Mark a straight line from the top right corner of the third A plank to the top right corner of the fourth A plank and cut.



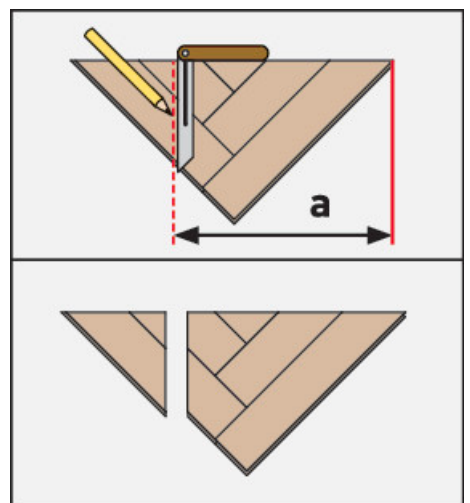
You're left with an inverted triangle. Disconnect the boards, glue, and stick back together, making your shape more sturdy.



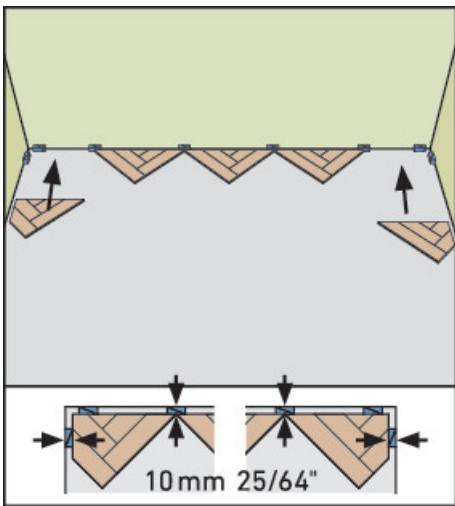
Starting from the centre of the rear wall and working outwards, place your inverted triangles. Make sure there's a 10mm gap at the back and side walls



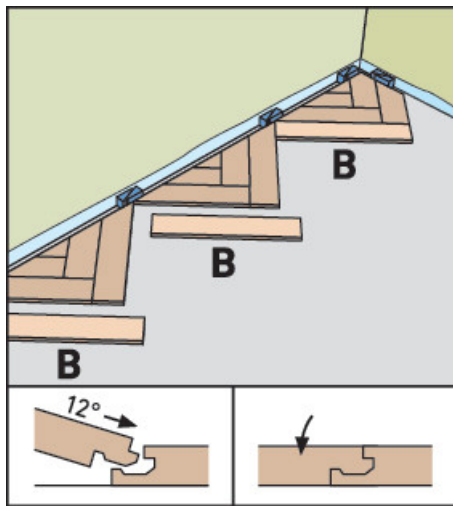
To fit the last inverted triangles against the left and right-hand wall, first measure the distance (a). Make sure your measurement stops 10mm short of the wall.



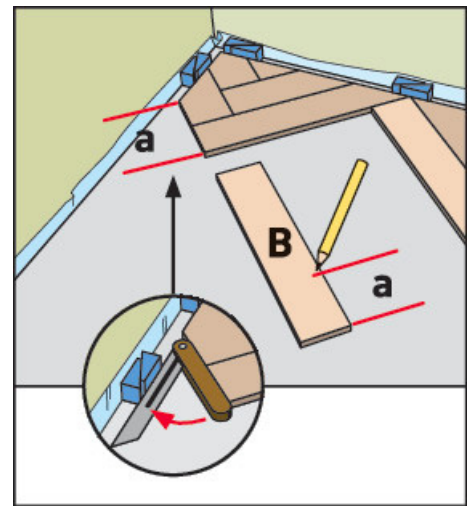
For the left-hand wall, take distance (a), mark (right-to-left) on the inverted triangle and cut. For the right-hand wall mark (left-to-right) and cut.



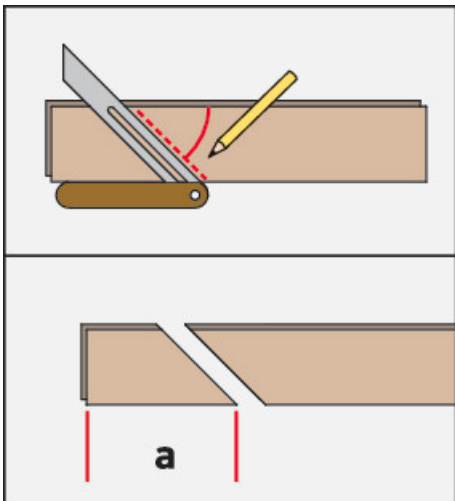
Now cut, your last two inverted triangles will slot nicely into place.



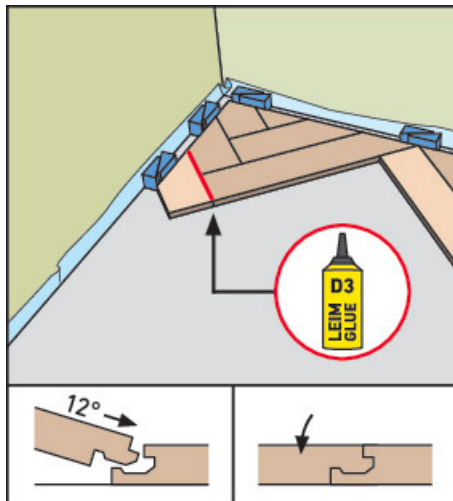
For your first row work from right- to-left. Place B planks to the left of each inverted triangle and click them into place.



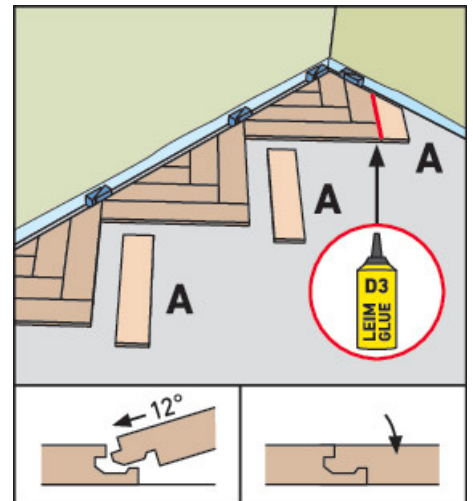
For the last plank, take a measurement (a) and mark it on your B plank.



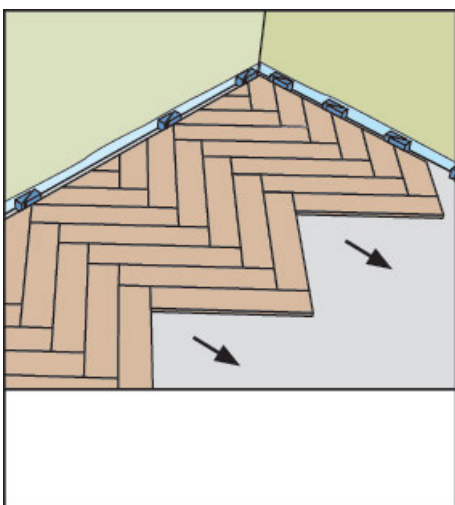
Cut measurement (a) at a 45° angle so it fits within the remaining space.



Glue the board to the inverted triangle to make sure it's sturdy.



For your next row work from left-to-right. Place A planks to the right of each inverted triangle and click them into place.



Continue working down, using B planks from right-to-left and A planks from left-to-right, applying the same methods as above.

### **Installation over Underfloor Heating Systems**

There are many types and manufacturers of water piped underfloor heating systems, so please ensure that the suitability and recommendations of the manufacturer of your system are sought and adhered to BEFORE commencing installation of your engineered flooring.

DO NOT install Herringbone flooring over any form of electrical matt UFH system.

Important: The above is a brief guideline on the installation of our laminate flooring; please always refer to the manufacturer's installation guidelines contained within packs of the flooring.

**If you require any further advice on installation then please call our Flooring Experts on 02476 012 840, e-mail us at [technical@ukflooringdirect.co.uk](mailto:technical@ukflooringdirect.co.uk) or click the Live Help button at the top of the page.**