Installation Instructions

Laminate

ATTENTION:
Please review all of the information before installing this product. Safe working practices must be followed throughout the installation. PPE should be worn as required. Warranty claims are subject to compliance with the installation instructions and care & maintenance recommendations.

A. GENERAL

1. **Application**: Laminate planks are suitable for use in residential settings or commercial areas such as hotels, conference rooms, healthcare, childcare, education, small offices, small department stores, boutiques, and lobbies. This product is designed for internal installation only – it is NOT to be installed in areas that are prone for flooding, such as bathrooms, laundries, areas with a floor waste, saunas, or outdoor areas. This product is not suitable for installation in garages. ALL laminate products installed in wet areas including bathrooms and laundries do not meet the National Construction Code (NCC) and Australian Standard 3740:2021.
2. **Spill Management**: All spills should be wiped up promptly as excess water left on the floor may cause permanent damage to your floor and pose a slip hazard.
3. **Inspection**: Inspect all planks in good lighting before installation. Defective planks must not be installed, otherwise it is recognised as acceptance of all visual and obvious defects.
4. **Environmental conditions**: Laminate must be installed at recommended ambient temperature of 15 -30° C and RH of 40%-65%.
5. **Weight Restrictions**: Do not install kitchen benches, cabinetry fittings or heavy items on top of the laminate planks. This will pin the floor in place and prevent it from floating freely. Any fixed items, including combustion wood heaters and fixed heavy furniture should not be placed on top of the floor.
6. **Adhesives and Sealants**: Adhesives, silicone, and caulking compounds are not to be used for this product as it is a click floating system. Any materials that restrict expansion and contraction of the floor raft will void warranties
7. **Moisture Considerations**: Many problems can occur with floating floors relate to excessive moisture. Ensure the subfloor is dry (80% or less RH).
8. **Environmental Stability**: Laminate floors should be installed in a "laminate friendly environment", avoiding exposure to extreme humidity or temperature fluctuations. Failure to maintain recommended conditions may result in floor failure.
9. **Climate Control**: In unoccupied homes, measures such as curtains, awnings, blinds, window tinting, and the early commissioning of air conditioning or humidity control devices should be taken to maintain a stable environment. It is best to install the flooring as late as possible in the construction process as this minimises the time it is exposed to uncontrolled conditions and damage from other trades. It is important to understand that any warranty, expressed or implied, may be voided if the floor is exposed to extreme conditions.
10. **Professional Installation**: Dunlop Flooring strongly recommends professional installation.

B. PREPARATION

Acclimatisation

11. **Acclimatisation**: Store the laminate packs in the area where they will be installed for at least 24 hours before installation, especially if they have been exposed to extreme cold or hot conditions.
12. **Subfloor Requirements**: All subfloors must be, structurally sound, plain, smooth, clean, and dry in accordance with Australian Standard AS1884:2021.
13. **Subfloor Compatibility**: Laminate planks can be installed over concrete subfloors, existing timber sub floors, PVC, Linoleum and Ceramic

Tiles (see section 20 Tile Subfloors). Carpet underlay, cushioned floors and/or existing floating floors are not a suitable subfloor as they may compromise the locking system.

14. **Planeness**: Subfloor deviations must not exceed 2mm over 1 meter. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound.
15. **Smoothness Tolerance**: Abrupt deviations must not exceed 1mm over 150mm. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using levelling compound.
16. **Cleanliness**: Ensure the subfloor is clean, the subfloor must be vacuumed thoroughly to remove any loose materials, prior to installation.
17. **Moisture Testing**: Ensure compliance with Australian Standard AS1884:2021: concrete subfloors must have a maximum of 80% relative humidity (RH), and wood subfloors must have a moisture content of 10-14%. A high reading of RH or Moisture Content (MC) will result in an installation failure .
18. **Damp-Proof Layer**: Install a continuous damp proof 200-micron PE film (builder's plastic) between the subfloor and laminate flooring or a good quality laminate underlay with a built-in vapour barrier of SD 75 or better.
19. **Concrete Drying Time**: A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 1cm thickness up to 4 cm. Thickness over 4 cm require twice as much drying time. For example, a 6 cm concrete subfloor must dry at least 8 weeks. As the drying times are dependent on climate conditions and the ventilation of the building, these timings are only indicative.
20. **Tile Subfloors**: For existing Terrazzo, Marble, Slate and other textured non-porous surfaces, the surface should be plane and smooth. Use the appropriate leveling compounds to achieve the subfloor planeness and smoothness REQUIREMENT. Any loose tiles should be removed and repaired to a structurally sound condition.
21. **Underfloor Heating**: Always refer to the underfloor heating system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance on installing laminate flooring and the compatibility with their system. It is not recommended to install laminate plank flooring over an electrical underfloor heating system. For Hydronic underfloor heating systems, the following instructions should be complied with, (a) Before installing over the newly installed heating system, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the subfloor (b) Once this has been completed, switch off the heating system 48hours prior to the installation day (c) Once the flooring is installed, the heating should be turned on and the temperature increased by approximately 2°C per day until desired temperature is reached. (d) Ensure the surface temperature never exceeds 28°C
22. **Underlay Recommendation**: A suitable underlay is recommended with a built-in moisture barrier. Ensure the moisture barrier has an SD value of 75 as a minimum. Dunlop Flooring has a range of hard flooring underlay that meets this requirement.
23. **Plank Arrangement**: Laminate Planks are manufactured to a consistent length with a limited pattern repeat. To achieve the most natural and realistic finish the planks should be laid randomly across the floor. This will result in a more natural looking floor, minimising pattern repeat.
24. **Direction of Installation**: The boards should be fitted to run the length of the longest, straightest wall. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the length of the hallways. Before laying commences, carefully measure the length and width of the rooms and hallways, plan the layout so the floors look balanced and ensuring borders are not less than half a plank width from the wall.

C. INSTALLATION

25. **Expansion Gaps**: Room humidity can vary according to the season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. For this reason, a perimeter expansion gap of a minimum of 10 mm is required around perimeter walls, permanent fixtures (benches, cabinetry, door frames, pipes, etc.). This gap can be covered with skirting, scotia or other profiles available. No fillers such as silicone

or caulking agents are to be used in the installation of laminate Flooring, as it will not allow the floor to float, expand and contract as it is designed to do. Skirting boards and door frames must be removed or undercut to allow for expansion. It is mandatory to provide an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. under the door). Never attach the skirting boards or scotia to the floor. This method does not allow the floor to expand and contract under the skirting boards/scotia. A clear visible gap between flooring and skirting boards/ scotia, trims must be maintained. Firm fitting of skirting boards/scotia can also restrict the expansion and contraction of the boards. It is recommended a scotia / skirting of 15mm – 20mm is used as the floor may contract during cool, dry periods / seasons to ensure adequate coverage.

26. **Maximum Room Size**: Dunlop Flooring Laminate flooring can be installed in individual rooms up to 15m long and 15m wide. In complex or multi-room installations, internal expansion joins at doorways/thresholds are required. This allows for individual rooms to expand and contract freely. A complex installation occurs anywhere a common room or area, such as a lounge or hallway, leads to another room through a doorway or narrow opening that could create a 'pinch point' that would restrict the movement of the raft.
27. **Locking Mechanism**: Dunlop Flooring Laminate planks utilise an innovative Uniclic Angle to Angle locking mechanism. For more information and installation videos please visit Unilin Technologies install instructions.

Scan here to watch:

28. **Installation Technique**: It is recommended to use an angle of between 20–30° when installing long and short sides. The boards can be installed using angle technique either pulling or pushing the boards to engage.
29. **Step-by-Step Locking**:

Step 1 Engage the Short Side

- Hold the plank at a 20–30° angle.
- Insert the male end of the short side into the female end of the previously installed plank.
- Lower the plank carefully until it sits flat on the subfloor.

Step 2 Position the Long Side

- Slide the plank toward the long side of the adjacent board.
- Push or pull the plank forward to get as close as possible to the long edge of the next board.
- Keep the movement straight and smooth to avoid friction or damage.

Step 3 Engage the Long Side

- Align the new plank parallel to the adjoining board.
- Ensure the male and female joints are fully inserted along the entire length.
- Push or pull the plank into place until it clicks and sits flat.

Step 4 Final Check

- Visually inspect the joins for gaps or lipping.
- Run your hand along the seams to confirm they are smooth and level.

32. **First Row Installation**: Start with the first plank that will be installed in the corner. For planks of the first row, remove the click profile on the long side that will allow the plank body to sit directly next to the wall. Any side of a plank that is directly next to a wall, must have its click profile removed, to ensure the required expansion gap of 10mm is maintained.
33. **Alignment Checks**: To make the start of the installation easier, assemble the first 3 rows away from the wall. Then slide the first 3 rows close to the wall with the required 10 mm distance spacers in place. Take a string line and hold it alongside the installed planks to check and adjust the straightness of your installed first 3 rows. It is recommended to make added checks throughout the install.
34. **Staggered Joints**: End joins should never be closer than 300mm to the end joins of parallel rows (offset). This weakens the stability of the

floating installation and effects the aesthetics of the finished install.

D. FINISHING OFF

35. **Doorway Transitions**: At doorways, a door threshold strip to be used to protect the edges of the floor and supply a decorative transition between flooring types.