

# Dream Home™

## Laminate Flooring for Floating Installation

### INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING:** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).

**CAUTION:** Do not sand any surfaces containing lead based paints, finishes, or asbestos. For buildings built in 1978 and earlier, contact the EPA for lead based testing prior to any sanding ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)).

To obtain installation assistance or product information concerning this flooring, contact the store of original purchase, or call the Lumber Liquidators customer care at 800-366-4204.

**IMPORTANT:** Save time & avoid frustration! Read these entire instructions before starting your installation!

#### RECOMMENDED USE:

- DREAM HOME™ Laminate Flooring is designed as a floating floor, and is installed by using a patented glueless click system.
- This laminate product is a floor covering only, it is not designed to be used as a structural material.
- This product is recommended for interior use only and can be installed on, above, or below grade levels.
- See the product's warranty for details.

#### JOB SITE CONDITIONS:

- The building should be enclosed, with all doors and windows in place.
- The rooms should be in normal living conditions with HVAC operational.
- Crawlspaces must be a minimum 18" from the bottom of the floor joist to the ground. Crawlspaces should have adequate cross ventilation. The ground of the crawlspace must have a minimum 6 mil thick polyethylene film covering the entire crawlspace ground. Basements, crawlspaces and garages under the flooring need to be dry and well ventilated.
- All gutters should be in place and functioning properly. Yard grading should be sloped to run water away from the home foundation.
- To avoid damages to the floor's finish, all construction activity should be completed before installing this laminate floor.

#### STORAGE & ACCLIMATION:

- Flooring should be delivered and stored horizontally on a dry surface in unopened boxes in the room where it is to be installed. Separate the boxes by stacking them in a criss-cross fashion to allow for air circulation.
- Acclimate the flooring for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation (96 hrs. in very dry or humid climates) and away from exterior walls, and away from heat or AC vents by at least 3 feet. Do not store in sheds or garages, or directly on cement. If it must be placed on cement, lay down a layer of plastic tarp to protect from moisture, and elevate to allow for air circulation.
- Installation should be carried out at a room temperature of 60 - 85°F, and a subfloor temperature of at least 59°F.
- The relative humidity in the room should be 35-75%.
- Proper site conditions must be maintained throughout the lifetime of the flooring.
- Once boxes are opened, the flooring should be installed promptly.
- Protect carton corners from damage. Protect from rain or moisture.
- Improper storage and acclimation can result in warping, and it may prevent proper assembly of this laminate.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- It is recommended that you add a 5% waste factor above the actual square footage of the room(s) that are to be installed. Diagonal installations may require 10% extra material. It is recommended you have an extra box for future repairs if needed.
- DREAM HOME™ Laminate Flooring should not be installed touching any fixed obstructions (walls, door jams, pipes, staircases, posts, fixtures, built-ins, etc.) and should not be glued, nailed, screwed or otherwise fixed or attached (e.g. door stopper, closet track) to the subfloor in any way. This is a "floating" floor and must have room to expand and contract.
- A minimum expansion gap of 1/2" is required on all sides, and at all vertical obstructions. This expansion gap can be covered up with baseboards, quarter round molding, or the appropriate floor trim.
- Do not install under kitchen base cabinets, islands, etc. of any type. Install the cabinets first, then the floor.
- Remove any tongues or grooves on the side of planks that will abut the walls and/or vertical obstructions.
- T-Moldings are required between adjoining rooms, hallways, and at all doorways, and must also be used in the middle of rooms to "break-up" large expanses of connected flooring! Maximum distance along length of planks is 26 feet. Maximum along width of planks is 26 feet.** Buckling, gaps, and separations can develop if this requirement isn't met.
- If the room has wall mounted, electric baseboard heat; be sure that there is 1/2" minimum clearance between the heaters and the new flooring surface for proper air circulation. \*Note: surface temperature must not exceed 79°F (26°C).
- DREAM HOME™ Laminate Flooring is not suitable for wet areas or use in high humidity areas where the floor is usually wet such as: full bathrooms, steam rooms and saunas. Do not install in rooms with floor drains or sump pumps.
- This product is not recommended for use on ceilings, or in boats or other moving vehicles.
- Please inspect the flooring panels carefully for any possible damage or defects before installation. Warranty claims will not be accepted regarding visual defects after the flooring has been installed.
- DREAM HOME™ will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
- If you discover apparent defects in the flooring panels, stop the installation immediately and call us at **1-800-366-4204**.

#### INSTALLATION TOOLS (as needed):

- Laminate installation kit • Laminate spacers • Tape measure • Pencil • 16 oz. Hammer • Chalk line • Pull bar • Table saw • Drill/ Drill bits • Miter saw (60 tooth Carbide-tipped circular saw blades) • Jig saw • Duct tape • Blue painters tape (2080) • Moisture meter • Safety glasses • Dust mask • Broom • Jamb saw • Eye protection • Ear protection • NIOSH Dust Mask • Gloves • Hygrometer (to monitor in-home humidity) • PVA wood glue • Calcium chloride moisture test (concrete)

**IMPORTANT: Never use a tapping block or tools designed for other types of laminate floors. Using these tools may damage your floor!**

#### ALL SUBFLOORS NEED TO BE: CLEAN - FLAT - DRY: and free of any defects.

- All substrates must be structurally sound and free from movement or deflection.
- Important: Subfloors must be flat within 1/8" over 6', and 3/16" over a 10' span.
- Differences in floor flatness must either be sanded or ground down, or built-up with a suitable floor leveling material.
- Improper substrate or flatness can result in gaps, squeaks and poor plank fitting during assembly.

#### WOOD SUBFLOOR:

- Screw down loose or squeaky sections of plywood and replace areas that are damaged.
- Wood subfloors should be moisture tested with an appropriate wood moisture meter, and the results must be no more than 12% on average. Test the subfloor moisture in several locations. Higher readings indicate a moisture concern that needs to be corrected before installation can begin.
- Allow wood floors to breathe! Never apply sheet plastic over wood subfloors.
- Wood subfloors must be constructed according to local building codes, be structurally sound and deflection free.
- 30 lb roofing felt or vinyl tile can be used to build up (in layers) low areas on wood subfloors.

#### CONCRETE SUBFLOOR:

- New concrete subflooring should be cured for at least 60 days prior to installation.
- Grind down high spots and fill in low spots with an appropriate Portland cement based patch (allow to cure fully).
- A moisture test is strongly recommended. Acceptable tests are ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride test, or ASTM F2170 using in situ probes, to test the humidity of the slab. Moisture levels exceeding 3lbs per 1000sqft using the Calcium Chloride test, or over 75% when using the in situ probe test, must have an appropriate moisture barrier between the concrete and flooring.
- A Moisture barrier should be used over all cement surfaces. Seams should be OVERLAPPED 8" and taped using a waterproof adhesive tape (duct tape). Moisture barrier should be a minimum 6mil virgin polyethylene. This vapor barrier should be installed up the wall at least 1". Appropriate underlayment with built-in moisture barriers may also be used. Please contact Lumber Liquidators for recommended underlayments.
- Slabs on or below grade must be free of hydrostatic pressure.

**NOTE:** This floor is water resistant, but not water proof. Moisture intrusions from concrete hydrostatic pressure, flooding, or plumbing leaks can affect floor coverings. High moisture can also be trapped below the flooring and create mildew or mold.

The installer is responsible for making sure the subfloor moisture content is suitable prior to installation of this floor. Warranty claims will not be accepted for moisture damage caused by insufficient moisture barriers being used.

#### EXISTING FLOORS:

- DREAM HOME™ Laminate Flooring can be floated over existing clean, flat, dry, and well bonded/secured tile or vinyl flooring.
- Any existing wood flooring glued to concrete must be removed prior to laminate installation.
- Do not install this flooring over cushioned vinyl flooring, or any existing floating floor products.
- All carpeting and padding must be removed before laying laminate flooring.
- Existing sheet vinyl, VCT, LVT, ceramic tile, and terrazzo installed will still require a moisture barrier and must meet flatness requirements.

#### ADDITIONAL UNDERLAYMENT PAD:

- Additional underlayment padding is not required for laminates that come with a pre-attached cushion on the back of the plank. However quality underlayments can help smooth out minor subfloor imperfections, provide moisture protection over wood subfloors and have added insulation and sound control properties. Please see Lumber Liquidators for recommended underlayments.

#### RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS:

- DREAM HOME™ Laminate Flooring may be installed over radiant heating systems. Be sure to consult and follow the heating system manufacturer's installation instructions thoroughly during installation.
- Lower heating system to 60°F (16°C) for 1 week before installation.
- After installation, slowly increase the temperature in increments of 10°F per hour maximum.
- Surface temperature must not exceed 79°F (26°C).
- Follow flooring installation instructions for wood or concrete subfloors as outlined above.
- Please contact your qualified heating specialist if there is any question before installation of the laminate flooring.
- Before installing, please contact Lumber Liquidators regarding Conductive Ink technology electric radiant heat mats approved for use with this flooring. Call 1-800-HARDWOOD and ask for the Tech & Install support department.

#### GETTING STARTED:

- Determine which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger when installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.
- When possible; Minimize end-joint "shadow" by running panels parallel with the primary light source.
- Generally, plank flooring is run parallel with the longest straight exterior wall.
- Contractors: It is advisable to determine the installation direction (North/South vs East/West) with the end user.

- IMPORTANT:** Carefully measure the room to determine the width of the first and last row of planks. To avoid too-narrow pieces at the finish wall, measure the distance between the starting wall and the finish wall, then divide this number by the width of the laminate flooring planks. If the width of the last row of planks will be less than 2 1/2" excluding the tongue, cut and adjust the width of first row of planks accordingly. **NOTE:** If a narrow strip is unavoidable for the last row, the final two rows can be glued together at the seams to avoid board separation. Use a floating adhesive.

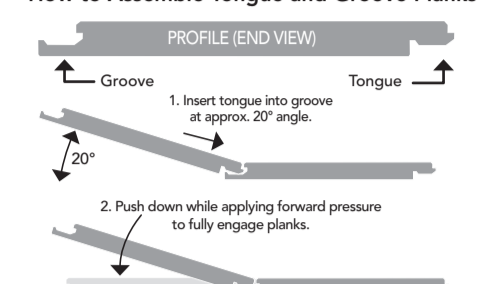
- Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Inspect the tongue and groove area for any debris that may prevent proper assembly. Do not install damaged or defective panels!
- To achieve the best look, mix laminate planks, and pull from several boxes at a time when installing.
- When your starting wall has raised baseboards, or drywall that is more than 1/2" off the floor, you may need to temporarily secure the spacers to the wall with tape to prevent movement of starting row.
- Always install in good lighting so visual defects can clearly be seen.
- If the starting wall is irregular, scribe or trace the contour of the wall on the first row of planks. Lift the planks and cut along scribe mark. Reinstall first row of planks.

- When cutting planks, make sure that the teeth of the power saw blade are cutting directly into the decorative side of the plank. Best results are achieved when using carbide tipped power blade. This will help avoid damaging the image surface.

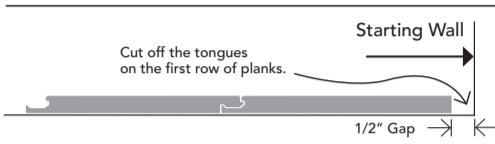
#### FINISHING UP:

- Your new floor may be walked on immediately.
- Add baseboards and moldings to cover the gaps between the floor and wall, and when transitioning to other existing floors.
- Nail the base moldings and trims to the walls, not to the flooring. This will allow for normal movement of this floating floor.

#### How to Assemble Tongue and Groove Planks

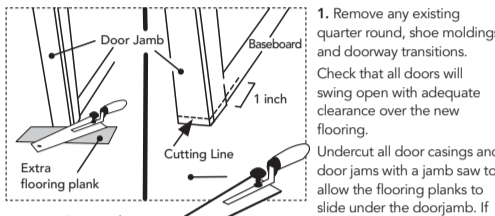


NOTE: Tongue image is for illustration only. The actual locking shape of your floor may differ.



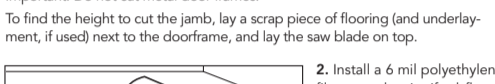
Be sure locking system is fully engaged! Planks must be flat in relation to each other (on all sides) without gaps before continuing installation.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
T-moldings must be used between adjoining rooms, hallways, and in doorways to allow for normal contraction and expansion of the floor.  
T-moldings must also be used in the middle of rooms wider than 26 feet (in the direction of plank length) or 26 feet (in the direction of plank width.)  
See step 11 for more information on moldings.

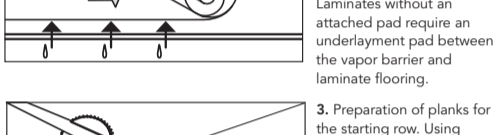


1" beyond the door frame casing. If no baseboard, just cut the door casing. Important: Do not cut metal door frames!

To find the height to cut the jamb, lay a scrap piece of flooring (and underlayment, if used) next to the doorframe, and lay the saw blade on top.

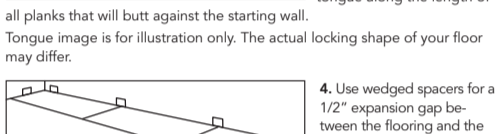


2. Install a 6 mil polyethylene film vapor barrier if subfloor is cement. This is an important step; don't skip this! Laminates without an attached pad require an underlayment pad between the vapor barrier and laminate flooring.

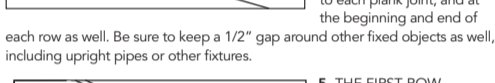


3. Preparation of planks for the starting row. Using a saw, cut the first row of planks lengthwise, to remove the tongue along the length of all planks that will butt against the starting wall.

Tongue image is for illustration only. The actual locking shape of your floor may differ.



4. Use wedged spacers for a 1/2" expansion gap between the flooring and the walls. Place spacers adjacent to each plank joint, and at the beginning and end of each row as well. Be sure to keep a 1/2" gap around other fixed objects as well, including upright pipes or other fixtures.



5. THE FIRST ROW  
A. Lay the first plank in the left-hand corner, up against the spacers, with the groove side facing toward you.  
B. Install the second plank by inserting the tongue of the short end of the plank into the groove in the end of the first plank. You will need to lift the second plank at a slight angle to insert the tongue.  
C. Press the second plank down flat. Ensure that the end-to-end joint is firm. Continue installing the first row in the same way.

NOTE: See step 8 for how to cut the last plank.



6. SECOND & CONSECUTIVE ROWS  
Note: Confirm the first row is straight. Start the second row with the remainder of the last plank in the first row, ensuring this piece is at least 12" long. If not, cut a new plank at least 12" long, and proceed. (Do not use a full plank!)

A. Place the first plank of the next row in position, and overlap the tongue yet. Continue connecting the planks end-to-end, carefully laying each plank on top of the groove in the first row.



B. Working from left to right, lift the second row of planks off the floor, and carefully insert the tongue into the groove of the first row. Then gently lower the planks into place, flat on the floor.

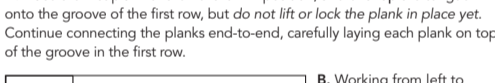
NOTE: If you have extra help, you may angle and lock the entire row in place at one time.

After connecting an entire row, carefully inspect along the joint to ensure it is locked securely in place.



C. If working alone, insert 1" blocks or wedges along the row to angle the entire row off the floor. Working from left to right, carefully remove the wedges, then firmly lower and press the row into place, locking it to the first row.

PRO TIP: Temporarily secure the rows together with removable painter's tape before locking in place. Stretch the tape as you apply it, to be sure it pulls the planks together. Remove immediately after each row.



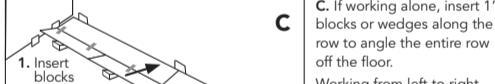
7. IMPORTANT: When laying planks, stagger the end joints from row to row by at least 16" to ensure the structural integrity of your floor and a pleasing appearance.



8. CUTTING END-OF-ROW BOARDS  
The last board in each row must be cut to fit, while still maintaining a 3/8" expansion gap at the walls. Here's how:  
1. Flip the plank over, end-to-end.



2. Lay the flipped board next to the row of planks.  
3. Mark the board on the back, and cut at the mark.  
4. Flip the plank back and install as before.  
\* The last piece in each row should be at least 8"



9. When you are unable to angle panels to install them (under door jams, toe kicks, radiators etc.), shave off the locking edge lip in the groove by using a wood chisel or plane. Apply a 1/8" bead of tongue and groove adhesive (PVA glue) along the modified groove as shown. Position the plank under the obstacle, then slide the plank gently into place, and tighten with the use of a pull bar and tap hammer.

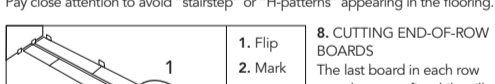
Clean excess glue with a damp soft cloth and buff dry.  
TIP: Use painters tape across the joint to keep it tight until the glue sets.



10. The last row will need to be cut lengthwise to fit properly. Here's how to get it just right:  
A. Lay an extra plank of flooring right on top of the last full row in place.  
B. Then lay another plank of flooring on top of that



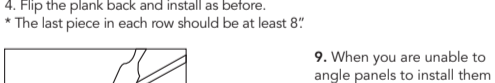
11. To ensure the floor is able to "float" freely, be sure to affix baseboards or moldings to the walls, not to the floors. This way, the floor can expand & contract within the gap. Also, never nail the first or last rows directly down to the subfloor! This option is not appropriate for floating floors!



12. In areas where your new flooring transitions to other types of flooring, such as carpet or tile, select an appropriate molding piece to get a safe and good-looking edge.  
End Cap moldings transition from a laminate floor to carpet, sliding doors, or surrounds.  
Reducer moldings transition from laminate floors to hard surfaces that are lower than



the floor, such as vinyl or tile.  
Stair Nose moldings are used when the new laminate floor edge is at a step-down; such as when the flooring extends to cover the top step of a stairway going down.  
T-Moldings cover expansion spaces at doorways, and they transition from your new floor to other hard surfaces.  
Quarter Round moldings are used to cover expansion spaces between the baseboards and the flooring.



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