

These instructions apply to the DREAM HOME Laminate collection

Dream Home

Laminate Floors

NIRVANA

laminate flooring

Dream Home
Laminate Floors

25 Years
WARRANTY

NIRVANA

V3 - V-GROOVE laminate flooring

Dream Home
Laminate Floors

25 Years
WARRANTY

CHARISMA

laminate flooring

Dream Home
Laminate Floors

20 Year
WARRANTY

UTOPIA

laminate flooring

Dream Home
Laminate Floors

10 Year
WARRANTY


KENSINGTON
Manor

HANDSCRAPED ♦ V-GROOVE
laminate flooring



st. 
JAMES
collection

V-GROOVE
laminate flooring




KENSINGTON
Manor

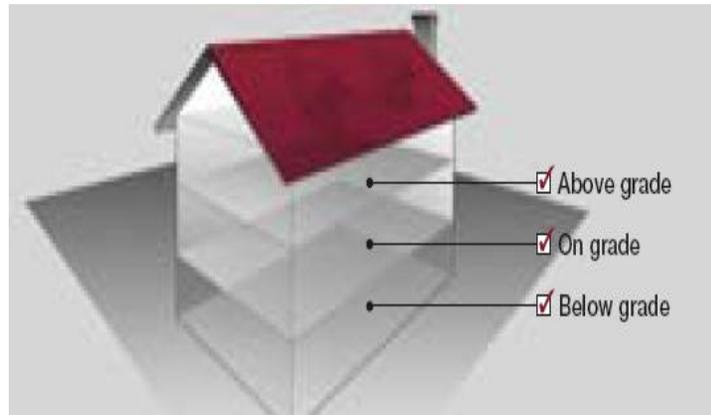
Laminate Flooring



Dream Home

Laminate Floors

These instructions apply to the DREAM HOME Laminate collection. Avoid costly mistakes, please read instructions carefully before beginning Laminate installation. Delay installation until the guidelines are completed.



DREAMHOME Laminate Flooring can be installed in every level of the home

DREAM HOME Laminate Flooring is intended for indoor use only, is designed as a glueless floating floor and should not be glued or nailed to the subfloor. Selected styles are approved for commercial applications. Laminates without a pre-attached foam underlayment will require a separate underlayment.

BEFORE YOU START

DREAM HOME Laminate Flooring consists of planks made from a durable laminate surface, a wood based core and a balancing backing. The planks are clicked together to form a long lasting, very easy to maintain surface. Like almost all materials in the home, flooring expands and contracts due to changes in temperature and humidity. Before beginning installation, you must allow unopened cartons of flooring to lay flat in the room where they will be installed and acclimate to normal room conditions for 48 hours, depending upon climate. Most installation failures are the result of moisture intrusion or the product was cut too tight around fixed objects. The expansion space must be left around the perimeter of the floor to allow for movement. Failure to meet these requirements can result in the floor buckling or chipping. Determine the need of a moisture barrier. DREAM HOME Laminate Flooring includes a wide range of coordinating moldings and transition strips designed to cover the expansion space at the walls, doorways and transitions to other flooring. Inspect the quality and quantity of planks, flooring transitions and wall trim needed for your installation. Fully acquaint yourself with these detailed installation instructions and make a job site evaluation to ensure that current home environmental conditions are acceptable for installation.

Acclimation: Condition the flooring before, during and after the installation in the room area to be installed. Do not store product on bare cement. Allow the planks to lie flat in unopened cartons away from exterior walls where they will be installed, for 48 hours before starting the installation. The indoor relative humidity should be **35-75%**, with temperature of **60-85°F**. Very dry or very humid climates may need extended conditioning. Poor acclimation may promote plank gapping or edge swelling.

OVERVIEW

1. Planks can be installed on any grade level on the home, intended for indoor use only.
2. Ensure the surface of the subfloor is flat, clean, dry and sound before starting.
3. Do not install over any carpeting, other laminates, floating floors or wood subflooring if installed directly over a concrete subfloor.
4. Inspect each plank during installation to ensure quality.
5. Add 5% to your square footage for most standard installations, 15% for diagonal installations.
6. Use a moisture vapor barrier (6, 8 mil sheet plastic) on concrete, ceramic tiles, (VCT) Vinyl composition tiles or similar substrates.
7. For **best appearance** Install from several boxes, inspect every plank when removing from the carton.
8. Laminates must have a minimum expansion space provided around the perimeter of the room and any fixed objects such as pipes or columns and walls. The **expansion space** is same as the thickness of the new flooring. **EXAMPLE:** 1/4" thick flooring will require 1/4" expansion. Door jambs and casings must be undercut. The flooring must be placed under jambs and casings without binding.
9. Areas greater than **27' feet** in any direction such as; (one room, two or more adjoining rooms, archways greater than 4 feet and large rooms with a connected hallway) must have **T-molding breaks** installed across the room, at the archway or at the beginning of the hallway or entry to provide additional expansion space.
10. Room areas greater than **27' feet** in any direction or when exposed to extended high humidity will also require a total of 1/2" expansion space around the perimeter of the room and all fixed objects.

JOB SITE

Exterior conditions can influence home interior.

1. **Check water drainage** from gutters, sprinklers, drainage to adjoining properties, changes to your home site or incorrect building procedures or damage can allow excessive water or moisture to penetrate basement walls, flow beneath concrete slabs and basement floors and into crawl spaces.
2. Laminate flooring should not be installed over any floor with a sump pump or in a room with a floor drain.
3. Check specific local building codes for assistance when correcting excessive moisture
4. **Yard grading;** inspect the outside surroundings for improper drainage or obvious sources of moisture. The soil should slope away from the foundation (at least 1/2 inch per foot for at least 10 feet). Walkways and driveways should direct water away from the foundation. Adjoining properties should drain water away from the building site.

MOISTURE

1. **A moisture test is recommended** on all concrete subfloors or wood subfloors constructed over a crawl space or basement to determine if moisture is elevated. The source of elevated moisture should be identified and corrected before installation.
 2. Common moisture testing tools are; ([Meters](#) for wood subfloors), ([Calcium Chloride](#), [RH rapid depth test](#) for cement)
Maximum acceptable moisture reading for **wood subfloors** is 14%.
 3. Maximum acceptable moisture reading for **concrete subfloors** is 4.5% or a Calcium Chloride moisture vapor emission rate of 5lbs/1000sq. ft/24 hrs. Ensure that job site conditions as well as moisture readings are acceptable, document the results.
- Because cement substrates can be dry today and wet later, it is always recommended to use moisture barriers.**

MOISTURE BARRIERS

1. Use DREAM HOME 6 or 8-mil plastic sheeting film having an impermeable vapor retard or perm rating of less than or equal to .15, thereby limiting the passage of moisture to near zero (ASTM D-1745) Overlap all seams 4-8" inches and tape the complete seam from end to end. Run the plastic up the edge of the baseboard or wall 2" to protect the finished floor edges from possible water vapors. After installation, roll and tuck the plastic down into the side gaps or expansion space to protect the laminate edges. Apply moisture barriers over concrete subfloors, ceramic tiles, terrazzo, kitchen vinyl or similar.
2. **Wood subfloors,** do not place plastic sheeting film vapor barrier over a wood subfloor under any circumstances. Wood subfloors need to breathe.
3. **Crawl spaces,** when installing over a crawl space, the exposed soil or a concrete slab in the crawl space area must be completely covered by a 6 or 8-mil plastic sheeting film with seams overlapped at least 8 inches or more, and taped from end to end.

FOUNDATION VENTS, vents must provide good cross ventilation without dead air space or fan assisted ventilation. Minimum vent openings equal to 1.5% of the square footage within the crawl space should be maintained. Example, 100 square feet of crawl space must have at least 1.5 square feet of open vents.



SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS -basics

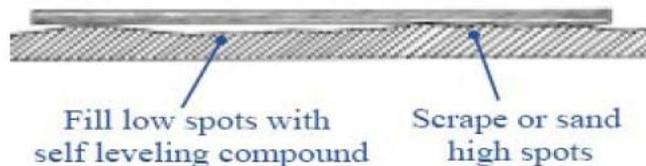
WOOD

1. Carpet and pad must always be removed.
2. Check for rot, squeaks and repair damages before beginning.
3. Subfloor surface must be flat, **3/16" within a 6'-foot radius**, without dips.
4. Any existing wood flooring on concrete subfloors must be removed prior to installation.
5. High areas, peaked joints in the subfloor or other ridges in the wood subfloor must be sanded or planed flat and low areas repaired or filled with a Portland cement based leveling compound or covered with a rigid plywood type underlayment.

CONCRETE -basics

1. Always use a moisture barrier

2. Carpet and pad must always be removed.
3. Check for elevated moisture and correct before installation
4. New concrete must cure for **60 days** before any flooring is installed.
5. Do not install flooring in a room with a floor drain or sump pump.
6. Subfloor surface must be flat, **3/16" within a 6'-foot radius**, without dips.
7. High spots or ridges must be ground down flat. Low areas should be filled in using a Portland cement and latex-based floor leveler.



OTHER SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Ceramic tiles, terrazzo, vinyl sheet goods, linoleum and resilient (VCT) vinyl composition tile and older vinyl and linoleum tiles or sheet goods normally do not need to be removed providing they are smooth, sound and dry. Older vinyl sheet goods and tile may contain asbestos. Contact your local municipalities for special precautions should you choose to remove these older floor coverings.
2. A vapor barrier is always required when installing laminate over vinyl, linoleum sheet goods, resilient tiles or ceramic tiles and concrete.

NEW CONSTRUCTIONS

1. The installation should be **scheduled** as late in the building cycle process as possible to prevent any unnecessary damage from occurring as the result of other trades involved with the construction process. Always protect the floor if other trades will be walking on the floor after installation.
2. Prior to installation, the building must be closed and the **climate controls** should be in normal operation for at least two weeks.
3. See specific **product acclimation**, site moisture and subfloor requirements.
4. **Kitchen cabinet bases** should be installed before the floor is installed. However, cabinets may be installed after the floor is in place providing the cabinets; island cabinets, etc. are not fixed /attached to the laminate floor.
5. **Areas of water exposure**, such as the expansion space in front of the kitchen sink, in front of or around the dishwasher, around the refrigerator space and around any water supply line, in front of any exterior doors and sliding glass doors must be sealed/filled with a flexible 100% mildew-resistant **silicone sealant**.

BATHROOMS

Laminate flooring is water resistant, not water proof

Laminate flooring may be installed in bathrooms; however, it is important to safeguard the floor from water damage.

Installation in bathrooms must be made in accordance with the following instructions:

1. Do not install in rooms with a floor drain.
2. **Avoid steam**, provide ventilation and floor mats, quickly remove standing water
3. All expansion spaces provided between the new flooring and walls; the doorway transition or other fixed objects such as pipes for radiators, sinks, water supply to water closet or toilet flanges and areas of water exposure **MUST** be sealed with 100% mildew-resistant **silicone sealant**.
4. When flooring is installed in a bathroom and an adjoining hall or room, a **T-Molding transition** must be installed in the doorway between the rooms or hallway and the expansion space under the T-Molding must be filled with the proper sealant. Place sealant in the expansion space of any flooring transition in the doorway of a bathroom.

KITCHENS

Installation in kitchens must be made in accordance with the following instructions:

1. **Kitchen cabinet bases** should be installed before the floor is installed.
2. **Areas of water exposure**, such as the expansion space in front of the kitchen sink, in front of or around the dishwasher, around the refrigerator space and around any water supply line, in front of any exterior doors and sliding glass doors **MUST** be sealed with 100% mildew-resistant **silicone sealant**.
3. Install the planks up to the cabinet kick plate, leaving the expansion space. Cover the expansion space with a quarter round molding.

LAUNDRY ROOMS

Laminate flooring may be installed in laundry rooms; however, it is important to safeguard the floor from water damage.

1. All expansion spaces in a laundry room **MUST** be filled with sealant.
2. Laminates must not be installed in rooms with a floor drain or sump pump.
3. **Areas of water exposure**, such as the expansion space near a sink, around any water supply line, **MUST** be sealed with 100% mildew-resistant **silicone sealant**.
4. When flooring is installed in a laundry room and an adjoining hall or room, a **T-Molding transition** must be installed in the doorway between the rooms or hallway and the expansion space under the T-Molding must be filled with the proper sealant. Place sealant in the expansion space of any flooring transition in the doorway of a laundry room.

RADIANT FLOOR HEATING

DREAM HOME flooring can be used in combination with many types of in-floor heating.

1. Follow the instructions from the supplier of the floor heating system.
2. Concrete subfloors must be installed and cured a minimum of **60 days**.
3. The heating system must be in operation for at least two weeks before installation to dissipate any residual moisture. During installation, the system may be turned off or set to a suitable installation temperature **65 to 75°F**.
4. Adjust the heating system gradually. The heating surface temperature must not exceed **85°F**.

INSTALLATION WITHOUT CLIMATE CONTROL

For best results, follow the ACCLIMATION guidelines found on page 1.

1. Installation installations must be met.
2. The crawl spaces must be enclosed and vented and meet all requirements, and the job site conditions must be correct.
3. **Insulation** of the floor in the crawl space is recommended.
4. The floor must not be installed in an area where it will be exposed to constant dampness or extremely high or low humidity.
5. Relative humidity must range between **35-75%**. The temperature should be at least **60-85°F** for the product acclimation and at least two days after the installation.
6. Summer homes that are closed without adequate ventilation during hot and humid seasons will exhibit closed or "**green house syndrome**" where the interior humidity level rises above 90%. Ventilation of these homes is highly recommended.

SEASONAL CHANGES - What to expect

To assure that your floors provide lasting satisfaction note these recommendations below:

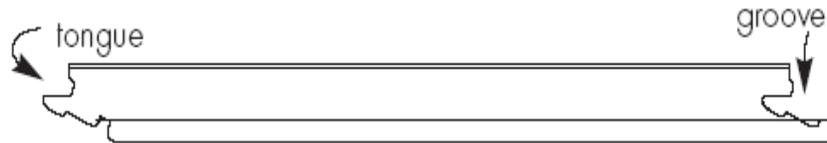
Seasonal gapping should be expected in all wood products and does not constitute a product failure.

It is normal that wood products will be affected by environmental fluctuations in humidity and temperatures within a building. The relative humidity should be **35-75%**, with temperature of **60-85°F**. Correct acclimation will minimize plank gapping or swelling.

- **(Dry)** Heating Season - A humidifier may be needed to improve low humidity levels. Wood stoves, radiant floor heat and electric heat all create dryer conditions.
- **(Humid, Wet)** Non-Heating Season - Proper humidity levels can be maintained by use of an air conditioner or dehumidifier. Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather. Do not obstruct expansion joints around the perimeter of your floor.

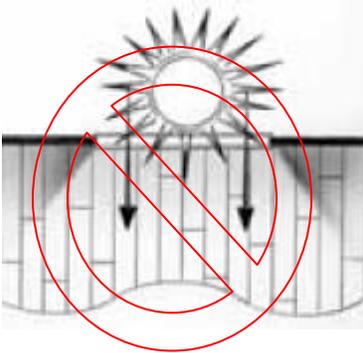
COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS -products designated commercial

1. Areas greater than **27' feet** in any direction such as; (one room, two or more adjoining rooms, archways greater than 4' feet and large rooms with a connected hallway) must have **T-molding breaks** installed across the room, at the archway or at the beginning of the hallway or entry to provide additional expansion space.
2. Areas greater than 27' feet in any direction will also require a total of 1/2" expansion space around the perimeter of the room and all fixed objects, walls, pillars, pipes.
3. When fastening fixtures to a floating floor, the anchoring bolts or fasteners must have the same expansion space 1/2" around each bolt or fastener as required for walls, pillars, pipes and other fixed objects.
4. Transitions and moldings that accommodate the 1/2" expansion space is strongly recommended.



PLANNING

1. DREAM HOME Laminate Flooring is intended for indoor use only, is designed as a glueless floating floor and should not be glued or nailed to the subfloor. Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. During installation, inspect the groove area for any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.
DREAMHOME Laminate Flooring will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
2. Determine in which **direction** the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.
3. **End-joint "shadow"** can be minimized, avoid running board direction into the primary light source.
4. Carefully measure the room to **determine squareness** and the width of the first and last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" excluding the tongue, adjust the width of first plank row accordingly.



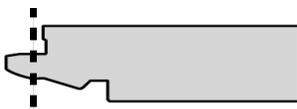
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4.

WHEN INSTALLING PLANKS

5. The tongue side of the plank should face the starting wall. To get the laminate row closer to the wall you may remove the tongue from the starting row of planks only. Begin laying planks on the left side corner of the starting wall and work to the right side. When cutting planks, make sure the teeth of the power saw blade is cutting into the decorative surface. Best results are achieved when using a thin, carbide tipped cutting blade.
6. Example of incorrect board placement

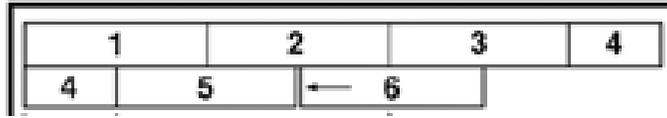


5.



6.

1. Example of board placement sequence during Layout. Note how board #6 is installed with a slight gap (1/8"-3/16") in-between #6 and #5 board. The gap is then gradually closed as board #6 is lightly tapped with a (tapping block) against board #5. Do not over-tap.



2. Adding additional spacers to the (beginning and ending rows) can temporarily help "hold" installed planks together during installation. Remove spacers when finished.

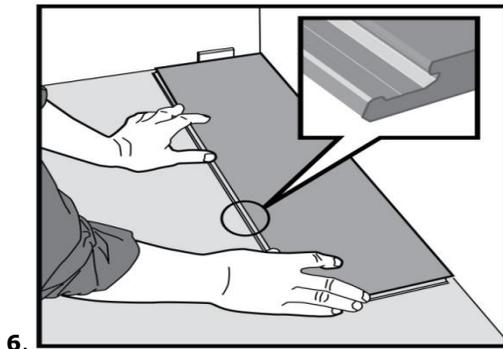


3. If the starting or ending wall is irregular, scribe or trace the contour of the wall to the row of boards.

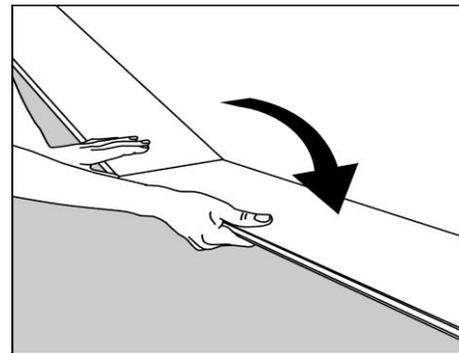
STARTING THE FIRST ROW

6. **Provide perimeter expansion.** The expansion space is the same as the thickness of the new flooring. 1/4" thick flooring will require 1/4" expansion. Start by placing spacers against the wall at the short and long side of each plank and at a seam where two planks join. Double this spacing for larger room areas over 27' in any direction.

7. Complete the first row progressively building or locking together the shorter ends of the planks



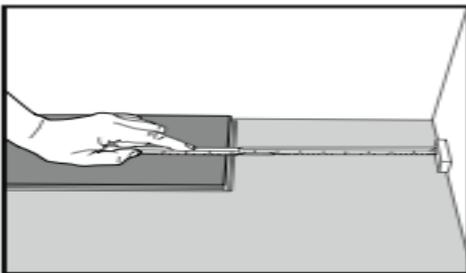
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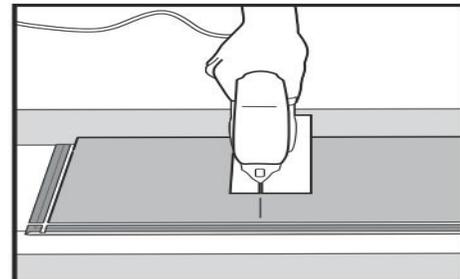
7.

8. The last plank in any row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank, make sure to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 12", the length of first plank in the row should be adjusted. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row should be at least 12" in length. Boards used under the recommended 12" should also be edge-glued

9. Fill-in planks can be cut with a jig saw, power saw, or hand saw. **TIP:** Clean cuts are achieved using a thin kerf, carbide tipped saw blade. Blade cut rotation should cut into the décor or finished side of the plank.

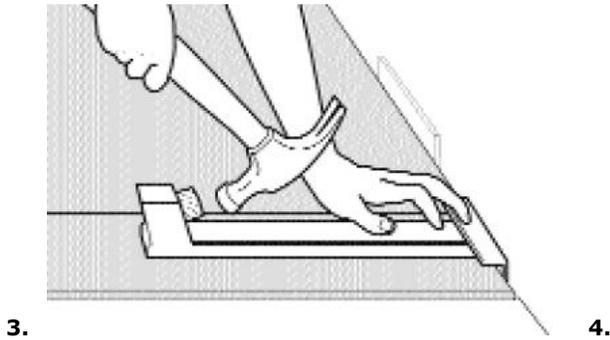
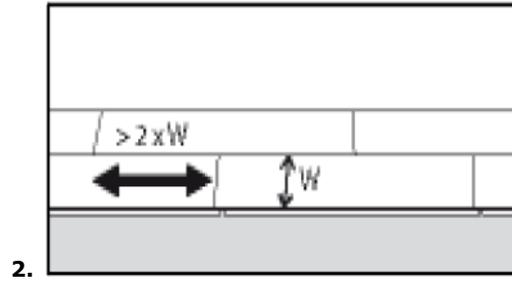
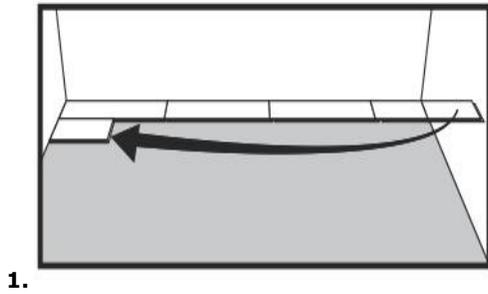


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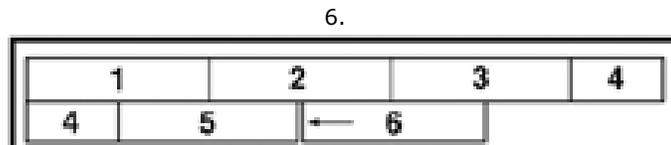
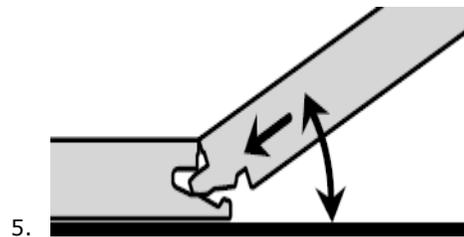
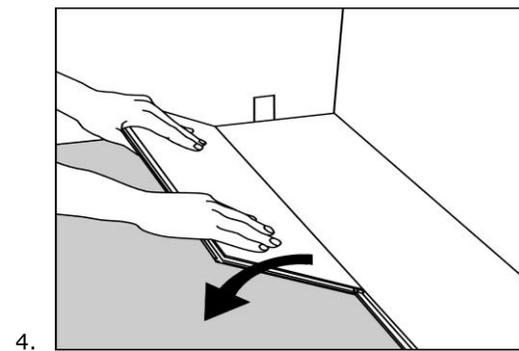
9.

1. Ideally, the remaining pieces cut off from planks may serve as the starter or first plank in the next row.
2. Stagger new end-joints from previously installed rows a minimum of 6"-12" to avoid seam line-up
3. The last board of each row, under cabinets or other difficult areas can be tapped-in using a tapping bar.



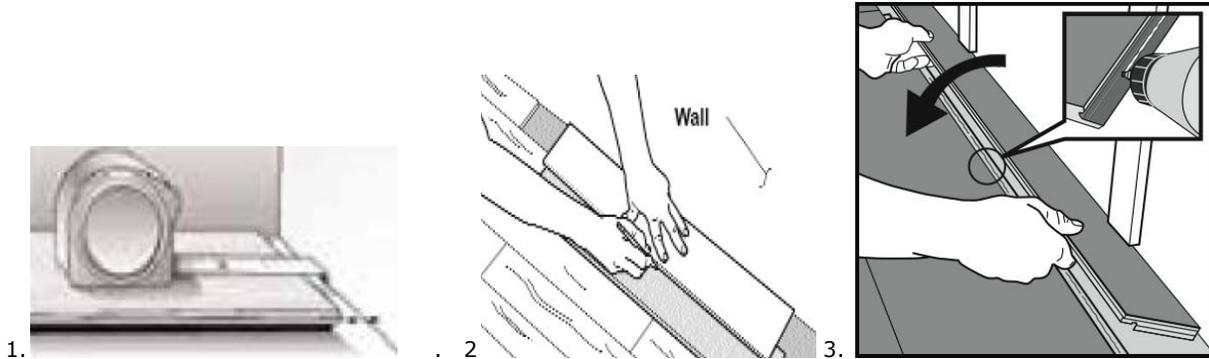
SECOND AND CONSECUTIVE ROWS AND INDIVIDUAL BOARDS

4. Position the first plank of the second row with the short end-side against a wall spacer. Next engage the long tongue side into the groove planks of the first row at approximately a 45° angle until planks fit together.
5. Gradually lower the plank down flat until the joint closes, locks or clicks
6. Using a tapping block, gently tap to close any gaps between boards - repeat procedure until completed Note how board #6 is installed with a slight gap (1/8"-3/16") in-between #6 and #5 board. The gap is then gradually closed as board #6 is lightly tapped with a (tapping block) against board#5. Do not over-tap, repeat process until finished.



LAST ROWS

1. Measure and cut to sufficient width and allow for the recommended expansion gap.
2. Scribe or trace contours for the last row
3. Planks less than 3" would also need to be glued at the edges

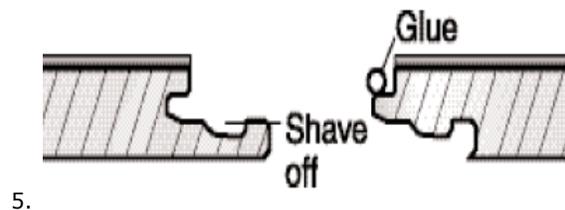
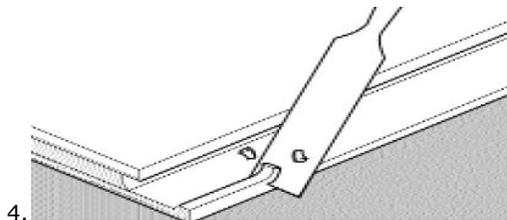


For rooms wider or longer than 27', the use of DREAM HOME T-Molding is required to account for the normal movement of the floor. T-Moldings should be utilized in areas such as doorways, archways, etc.

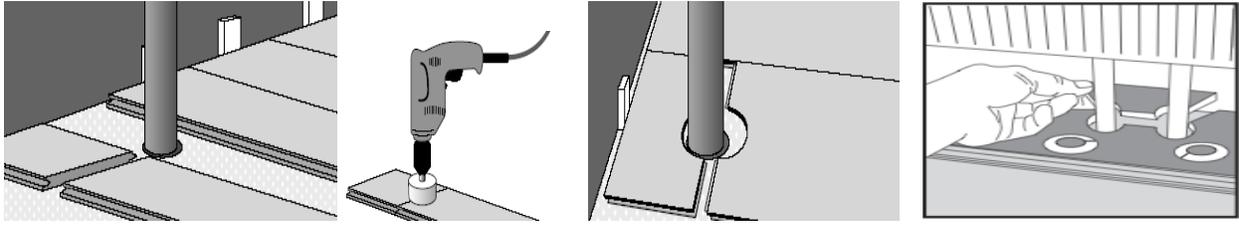


Removing the Lip or locking system, as needed

4. In areas where it is difficult to angle the planks up into position, such as around/under door moldings or jams, kitchen cabinetry or older type heat registers, it is necessary to remove the lip or locking system from the groove edge of the planks you are fitting to. This is done by lightly scraping or planing off the lip only on the groove side of the plank. This will allow you to install the plank laying it flat. After the lip has been trimmed on the planks you are fitting to, lay the plank flat on the floor.
5. Apply a thin bead of PVA laminate glue on top of the tongue and push the planks into position. Immediately wipe off any excess glue with a damp cloth.



CUTTING AROUND PIPES



1. Measure the distance from the wall to the center of the pipe. Mark the plank where the hole for the pipe will be drilled. Remember to allow for the spacer. Small parts should be fitted together using PVA laminate glue
2. Measure the diameter of the pipe. Drill the hole in the plank $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than the diameter of the pipe.
3. If the hole for the pipe is located in the center of the plank, make a cut perpendicular to the long side of the plank. The cut should be made going directly through the hole.
4. If the hole for the pipe is located near the edge of the plank, make two 45° angle cuts to the hole from the side of the plank closest to the hole.
5. You can now position the two pieces around the pipe. Apply a bead of PVA laminate glue to the cut edge of the fill piece and press into place. Immediately wipe off any excess glue from the surface with a damp cloth. Use a wedge and hold in place until glue dries.
6. The expansion space around the perimeter of the pipe shall be completely filled with a silicone caulking.

STEP DOWN AND STAIR TREAD APPLICATIONS

Use stair nosing to finish a single stair edge or for a step down application. Use a stair tread and riser for complete stair applications. Stair parts should be nailed and glued for safety. Due to the complexity of stair installation and local building codes, it is highly recommended to consult with a professional flooring installer or the manufacturer for stair installation advice.

FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

1. Remove spacers from perimeter of room.
2. Install transition moldings. Do not fasten transitions into the laminate flooring.
3. Install quarter round or baseboard molding. Molding must be sufficient size to cover the $\frac{1}{4}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ " expansion space. Do not fasten moldings through the laminate flooring. Fasten into the wall.
4. Use plywood when moving furniture or appliances into position to protect the flooring.
5. Use coasters or proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
6. DREAM HOME Laminate Flooring should be maintained by using a dry swiffer mop or cleaned with laminate floor cleaners. Do not flood mop floor. Do not use abrasive cleaners.
7. Chipping edges, dents and Scratches are site related, not warrantable.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE and PROTECTION

1. Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
2. For tough spots, such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar, apply mineral spirits on a clean white cloth, then wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove any remaining residue.
3. Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly with a recommended hard floor attachment (not a beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
4. Do not wash or wet mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soap detergent, or any other liquid cleaning material, this could cause swelling, warping, delamination, joint-line separation and void the warranty.
5. Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
6. Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine, these can generate heat or hot spots.
7. For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
8. A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.
9. Entry mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.
10. Do not use rubber or foam backed plastic mats as they may discolor the flooring finish. To prevent slippage, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment approved for urethane finishes.
11. Use floor protectors and wide-load bearing leg bases/ rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector.
12. Avoid excessive exposure to water.
13. Do not walk on your floor with stiletto heels, shoes with sports cleats or exposed metal parts.
14. Do not allow sharp, pointed, or rough textured objects to be exposed to the flooring.
15. Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.
16. Protect from direct UV sunlight
17. Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances; but first, put down a piece of quarter inch plywood or Masonite to protect the floor. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.
18. A protective mat should be used for furniture or chairs with castors.
19. never use oil soaps, wax, liquid or other household products to clean your floor.
20. Lumber Liquidators does not endorse the use of steam cleaning machines on wood products, use at your own risk.
21. Toys and tools can scratch the finishes, scratches and dents are jobsite related, not warrantable.

Questions or comments regarding your application please call our Customer Care or Technical Support for assistance

(1-800-366-4204)