



Laminate Flooring Installation Guide

Regal

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS for REGAL LAMINATE

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION. IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE

All wood-based products, even those specifically designed to have increased resistance to moisture, are hygroscopic (they will react to the moisture in the environment) and as a result will expand or contract accordingly. All sources of under floor moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. This product is not water-resistant and excessive wetting is to be avoided and water spillages dried immediately. At no time should standing water be left on the floor. It is important that you check each plank for any manufacturing defects. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed.

SUBFLOORS

Wood

The floor must be rigid, free from movement and have at least 18-inches of well-ventilated air space below.

Underlayment

Underlayment panels are used to correct deficiencies in the subfloor and to provide a smooth, sound surface on which to adhere the resilient flooring. APA underlayment grade plywood, minimum 1/4-inch thickness, with fully sanded face is the preferred panel. Underlayment panels such as Multiply or Sureply are recommended. The underlayment should be installed with dispersion type staples placed every 4 to 6 inches in the field and every 2 to 3 inches along the seams. Sanding is a preferred method for smoothing joints. The American Plywood Association offers other acceptable guidelines for proper wooden subfloor installation. The above mentioned is not considered the only procedure for a successful installation. Always install and fasten underlayment panels according to the manufacturer recommendations. Regardless of which underlayment is used, failures in the performance of any Flooring2 product due to the underlayment are not covered by the Flooring2 warranty.

Concrete Floors

Concrete floors should be prepared according to ASTM F-710, Floors shall be smooth, rigid, flat, level, permanently dry, clean and free of all foreign material. such as old adhesive residue. Imperfections such as chips, spalls, cracks and/or corrective leveling shall be repaired with cementitious based patching and/or underlayment materials. The surface of the concrete must be flat to within 3/16-inches in 10 feet.

Patching Materials

Flooring2 recommends only the use of cementitious base patching and leveling compounds. Only use the highest quality materials. Regardless of which patching or leveling compound is used, any failures in the performance of the compound or Flooring2 flooring due to the compound is the responsibility of the compound manufacturer and installer, not with Flooring2.

Existing Resilient Floors

Flooring2 Laminate Flooring may be installed over a single layer of resilient flooring such as VAT, VCT and sheet vinyl. Note: The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring or subfloor is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer and flooring contractor.

Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless)

Flooring2 Laminate flooring may be installed over most poured floors provided they meet the following conditions:

- They must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete. It must be free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.
- The responsibility of determining if the existing flooring is suitable to be installed over rests solely with the installer and the flooring contractor.

WARNING!

Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, saw, bead-blast or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt or asphaltic cut-back adhesives. These products may contain either asbestos fibers or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content. The RFCI Recommended work practices for removal of resilient floor coverings are a defined set of instructions which should be followed if you must remove existing resilient floor covering structures.

Moisture Testing

It is the responsibility of the installer to determine if the subfloor is acceptable for installation. In the event there is a potential concern for excessive

moisture, the appropriate measures should be taken. There could be concern for mold growing in high moisture areas.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Before you begin the installation, inspect the flooring material for any obvious defects. Ensure you have the correct color, pattern, quantity, and that all the material is of the same production number. Beginning the installation means that you have accepted the conditions. It is essential that all subfloors be rigid, smooth, flat, level, permanently dry, and free of all foreign materials. Subfloor preparation should be done with the permanent HVAC set at a minimum of 65F -78F degrees.

Keep the boards in room temperature for at least 48 hours in unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be between 65F-78F degrees before and during installation. Wait for any completion of wall preparation, painting, and other wet trades before storage begins. Do not open the packages but spread them out in the room or rooms. If the installation area is new construction, wait for 14 days with the climate controlled at normal room temperature with a minimum of 62F degrees. This allows for acclimation of the temperature and humidity conditions. Relative Humidity Levels of your room should be maintained at 40%-66%.

Check the sub floor for a smooth surface and fill in any depressions or holes with a floor level compound. Long rooms in excess of 15-feet in either direction should be checked for any uneven conditions in the subfloor and level compound should be applied to within a difference from one end to the other of a gradual minimum of 1/8-inches within a 10-foot radius. Be sure to adhere to the subfloor requirements in the above instructions.

Always shuffle the planks from 3 different cartons to ensure mixture of grain and color.

For floor surfaces exceeding 1,600 sf and/or lengths exceeding 40 feet in length, use expansion joints to divide the floor sections. Expansion moldings are not required up to 40 feet x 40 feet. No transitions are required in doorways.

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* With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave a 3/8-inch gap between walls and fixtures such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc.

CHECK THE PLANKS BEFORE INSTALLING THEM TO BE SURE OF APPEARANCE.

We maintain strict quality control at the factory but it is a good idea to check each plank for any blemishes or flaws. Return any such planks to your retailer for replacement.

** Please note: Regal Laminate comes with an attached pad. No additional foam is required or recommended.

Jobsite Conditions

All areas must be fully enclosed, weather-tight with the permanent HVAC system in operation. The temperature should be maintained at a minimum of 65F degrees (18C) and a maximum of 85F degrees (29C) for 48 hours prior to, during, and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain a room temperature between 55F degrees (13C) and 85F degrees (29C).

INSTALLATION

Remove baseboard, quarter-round and other wall base material. Under-cut door trims to allow flooring to be installed under trim and move freely.

Proper layout will prevent narrow pieces along the wall. For plank installations lay the long dimension of the plank parallel with the long dimension of the room. Plank ends should be staggered randomly. Keep end joints at least 12-inches apart. Start each row with planks of varying lengths. Usually the left-over piece from one row can be used as the starter piece on the next row of planks as long as it is a minimum of 12-inches.

1. Thoroughly clean the subfloor. If installing over concrete or a crawl space that is less than 24-inches from the subfloor a moisture barrier is required (that is at least 6mil).

2. Commence installation in the right-hand corner of the room with tongue facing the wall. Use shims to allow about 3/8-inches between the planks and the walls, or stationary interior room objects, so that there is room for normal expansion and movement.

3. Insert the end section of the next plank and drop down to get a flat adjoining surface. Continue this process to the end of the first row.

4. Measure out the last boards to fit. Allow for the 3/8-inches expansion space next to the wall and draw the cut line.

5. If you are using a sabre saw, or other type of power saw, place the plank face down on the work area and cut to size. If you are cutting with a hand saw, use a fine-tooth blade and cut the plank with the face up. Insert the cut plank into the row and use a pry bar to ease the plank into position.

6. The cut piece from the previous row should be used to start the next row. This cut piece should be at least 12-inches long. If the cut piece is less than 12-inches, start with a full plank which should be cut in half lengthwise in order to achieve the staggered appearance. Be sure that all end joints are staggered in length at least 12-inches.

7. Insert the starting piece of plank on the next row and drop down to secure.

8. Insert the next plank by angling the length of the plank into the groove of the previous row, and drop into place. Continue this on the remaining planks in the row. At the end of the row repeat steps 4, 5 and 6.

9. To install the last row of the project, place a loose plank on top of the last installed plank on the adjoining row. Place another plank on top, with the tongue side facing the wall (allow the 3/8-inch expansion joint) and draw a line along the edge of the plank as indicated and cut along the drawn line. Insert the cut plank against the wall and use a pry bar to ease into position. The shims can then be removed.

It is a good idea to save a few planks in case of accidental damage. Planks can be replaced or repaired by flooring professional.

SUB FLOORS WITH RADIANT HEAT

IMPORTANT: Due to the speed of sudden temperature changes, which has the potential to negatively affect laminate flooring construction, it is not recommended to install over any electrical radiant heating system. Installation over electrical radiant heating systems will not be covered by the manufacturer warranty. Below are instructions for hydronic radiant heating systems using water.

Ensure the hydronic radiant heat surface temperature never exceeds 85F degrees. Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system.

Then set the thermostat to a comfortable room temperature for the installation. It is recommended that the radiant heat is applied in a gradual manner after installing the laminate flooring. Refer to the radiant heat system manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

It is up to the owner/installer to confirm the suitability of any radiant-heating system for the intended end-use. The selection and use of any radiant

heating system is at the sole discretion and responsibility of the owner/installer.

IMPORTANT: For bathroom, laundry room or commercial installations it is important to seal any cut planks to ensure superior and warranted performance.

Once the flooring installation is complete, a general Silicone based sealant should be applied around the perimeter (in the expansion space at walls). This should also include any other areas such as islands, doorways, columns, etc. where the laminate flooring planks have been cut to fit.

Branded and generic Silicone tubes are available at any local home center or hardware location.

CARE, MAINTENANCE & CLEANING FOR LAMINATE FLOORS

- * The single greatest cause of damage to any flooring or floor finish is abrasion from dirt and grit.
- * To protect the floor from dirt, grit, or sand we recommend you use doormats at entries. Vacuum mats often.
- * Ensure you use non-staining mats on the floor. Some rubber-backed and latex-backed mats may stain or damage the surface.
- * Use non-staining floor protectors under heavy furniture and equipment.
- * Chairs should have clean, smooth, non-staining floor protectors. Ensure there are no nicks or burrs on the protectors. Felt protectors must be cleaned regularly to ensure there is no grit build-up. Floor protectors should be at least 1-inch in diameter and rest flat on the floor.
- * When moving heavy furniture and equipment, use strips of plywood or Masonite to roll or slide the furniture or equipment.
- * The key to successful maintenance of all flooring types is the removal of dirt and soil. Mopping with a sponge or string mop alone removes very little soil, but rather it dissolves the dirt and spreads it out evenly across the floor creating a dull, dirty film and migration into the tile joints.
- * Flooring2 recommends the use of micro-fiber mops and pads for dust mopping and scrubbing.
- * Clean the floor regularly with a vacuum cleaner or dry mop. If necessary, the floor may be cleaned with a wet mop and a laminate cleaner. Avoid using too much water.
- * Steam mops are not recommended for use on this laminate flooring. Steam (water) is introduced into the joints of the laminate flooring increasing the potential for swelling of the core board.
- * Do not use a jet spray microfiber mop such as a Swiffer Jet. Never use wax, polish, abrasive cleaners or scouring agents as they may dull or distort the finish. **USE CAUTION:** Planks are slippery when wet.
- * Do not use vacuum cleaner with rotating brushes or beater bars.