

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

- Always check flooring panels for defects such as chips and color variations under good light conditions prior to installation. Also check that grooves are free of debris.
- Use laminate panels from multiple boxes during installation.
- Laminate flooring **MUST** be allowed to acclimate to the temperature and humidity of the room. Leave the closed package in a horizontal position for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Preferred temperature should be 62-73° F (17-23°C) with relative humidity of 40-60%. Humidity should never drop below 30% as gapping may occur.
- If existing baseboard molding is difficult to remove, Quarter Round molding will be required to cover the expansion space need between flooring and baseboard.

Tools and Supplies Required are:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| -Foam Underlay | -Hammer |
| -Spacers | -Ruler |
| -Saw | -Pencil |
| -Adhesive Tape | -Tape Measure |
| -Tapping Block | -Utility Knife |
| -4mil (or thicker) polyethylene vapor barrier for crawl space and concrete floor installations. | -Construction Adhesive |

• Begin next row with the cut off piece from the previous row to stagger pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 10" (25cm) long and joint offset should be at least 16" (40cm) apart. To attach panels, tilt the panel you are attaching slightly upwards (about 15-25°) and rotate downwards into place. The plank will click into place with light pressure.

• Attach the second panel on the long side as described above. Be sure that the groove of the short side of the panel is in alignment with the tongue of the panel on the floor. Then lower the panel to the floor. The tongue and groove should lock together. Continue laying the remaining panels in the same manner. **See photo 7**

• To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for the spacers. Cut the panels and attach into position. **See Photo 8 & 9**

• Door Frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the panel to the correct length. Then place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side. **See Photo 10**

• You can trim doorframes by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw, cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames. **See Photo 11**

In difficult areas where panels cannot be lifted to be installed, use a chisel to lower the edges of the groove. If much of the groove is removed, the joint will be compromised. Apply a 3/32 bead of glue to the groove and install plank. remove residue and tape pieces together for 24 hours.

Suitable Types of Sub floors and Floor Preparation

- The sub floor must be even, dry and clean. Carpet staples or glue residue must be removed and floor must be clean to ensure proper installation. **See Photo 1**

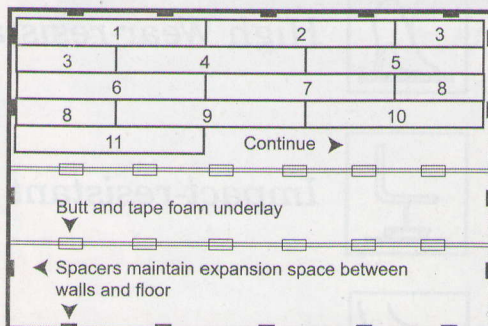
- To check for evenness, hammer a nail into the center of the floor. Tie a string to the nail and push the knot against the floor. Pull the string tight to the farthest corner of the room and examine the floor for any high/lows relative to the string. Gaps cannot exceed 1/8" (3mm) per 3' (.92 meter). Any unevenness in excess, must be sanded down or filled with appropriate filler.

- Floors must be checked for moisture. Any and all moisture problems must be solved prior to installation. New concrete needs to cure for at least 60 days before installation.

- **THIS FLOOR IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DAMP ROOMS SUCH AS BATHROOMS, SAUNAS, ROOMS WITH FLOOR DRAINS OR ROOMS THAT COULD POTENTIALLY FLOOD.**

Installation

- Remove tongue from wall side of first row of planks



- All flooring installations require foam underlayment. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the laminate panels. Underlay should be butted side by side (no overlap). **See Photo 2**

- For installations on concrete floors or over crawl space a vapor barrier must first be laid down. Run the poly 2" (5cm) up walls and overlap seams 18" (45cm). Tape seams. **See Photo 3**

- Remove the tongue (on the long side) from the first row of planks on the long side. This will ensure that the decorative surface of the flooring is under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off. **See Photo 4**

- Start in a corner by placing the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion gap of 3/8" (8-12mm) between the wall and the flooring. **See Photo 5**

- **REMEMBER THAT THIS PRODUCT IS PRIMARILY WOOD AND NEEDS ROOM TO EXPAND AND CONTRACT. DO NOT ATTACH THE FLOOR TO ANY SURFACE.**

- To attach your second panel, insert the end tongue of the panel into the end groove of the first panel by rotating the plank down at an angle. Lower the panel flat to the floor. Line edges up carefully. **See Photo 6**

Molding



REDUCER
MOLDING



T-MOLDING



U-TRACK



LANDING/STAIR
MOLDING



QUARTER ROUND
MOLDING

- Reducer molding is used to finish flooring when the adjoining surface is lower than the laminate or when the flooring meets carpet. Position the U track 1.4" (7mm) between each edge of the flooring. Screw, nail or glue down the track directly to the sub floor and insert into the track.

See Photo 12, 13 & 14

- T-Molding is used to finish flooring when two levels meet in doorways or for expansion joints. Install the same as the reducer molding. If your room is more than 23' (7m) wide or 30' (9.1m) long, you will need to allow for an expansion by using T-molding.

- Stair molding is used to finish flooring on landings or stair edges. Moldings need to be glued and screw down to the sub floor for safety. Color fill should be used to cover counter sunk screws. **See Photo 15**

- To finish the perimeter of the room, install quarter round molding using finishing nails. Nail quarter round directly into the baseboard not the flooring. **See Photo 16**

Maintenance, Tips, and Warnings

MAINTENANCE:

Vacuum, Dust Mop (Dry) and when necessary, clean with a MOIST (not wet) cloth or mop.

NEVER USE: Wet Cleaning tools and cleaners, soaps, floor polish, floor cleaning wax, oil soaps, etc. These products can damage and/or leave a film on the flooring.

TIPS:

- Use felt tip protectors
- Area Rug use is recommended
- Keep animal nails trimmed
- Never slide furniture across floor w/o pads
- Keep floors clean.
- Never use water or wet type cleaning tools

Warranty:

We warrants products to be free of defects in material and workmanship. All products **MUST** be examined thoroughly **PRIOR** to installation and any questionable planks shall not be installed.

It is important that the product be installed correctly and maintained properly. The warranty covers finish, wear, stain, and fading, under normal conditions in a residential installation. In the event of a claim, VBA reserves the right to either repair or replace product. The warranty covers the cost of the product only.

All claims must be submitted in writing to place of purchase. Failure to follow these procedures may result in voiding some or all of the warranty.

This limited warranty is not transferable and extends only to the original end user.