

CLOUDWALK Flooring

Laminate Flooring Installation Guide

It is the installers/customers responsibility to carry out an inspection of the delivered flooring product prior to installation to ensure the colour, grade, pattern irregularities, structural quality, gloss and finish are acceptable. It must also be confirmed that the correct product, as per viewed samples, has been delivered to site. If the product is deemed not acceptable, do NOT install it and contact your supplier immediately. If the product is installed it will be considered to be acceptable to the customer and the supplier will take no further responsibility.

Flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the packs flat; packs should never be lent against a wall. The product should be installed from the carton. Its moisture content should be checked by the installer before installation with a moisture meter to be certain that the flooring has not dramatically changed moisture content since it has left the supplier warehouse all flooring contractors should possess moisture meters for the timber flooring and concrete and timber sub-floors.

Pre-installation Conditions and Getting prepared

The laminate is designed to be **installed floating without glue**. The Angle to Angle Click4 sides system allows the planks to be joined without the need for adhesive or nail fixing to the sub-floor. In some situations a method using cross-linked PVA will be required to allow for easier assembly under door thresholds and tight floor spaces.

The cartons must be stored in a cool, shaded and protected dry place (ambient temperature of 18 –25 Degrees Celsius). Never open the packs until the day of installation as to avoid moisture pickup of the laminate

During winter months cartons in their original unopened packaging should be acclimatised to the room temperature for at least 48 hours. **Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation:** never install any damaged planks. Carry out alignment inspections as you continue the installation and to better blend and balance the natural batch variation the installer should always work from several open cartons of product to create a balanced visual blend.

Subfloor

The surface-temperature of the sub-floor at installation should be at least 15°C but never exceed 27°C. Ideally relative humidity should be 45% to 55 % but never below 30% or consistently exceeding 60%. Do not heat or cool the area prior to install.

A concrete sub-floor should be dry, 2.5-4.5%, clean, and free of any cracks. Irregularities on the sub-floor should not exceed 3 mm in every 3 meters, in all directions. In case there is a need to level concrete sub-floor a cement-based floor-filler should be used and allowed to dry. All wooden substrates must be dry, free of loose or squeaky planks or joists, screw fix or additional nailing may be required

Kitchen Island

Do not install kitchen island benches & similar large fixed cabinetry on floating installations. The floor needs to be cut in & around these objects to avoid restricting the movement of a floating floor.

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Getting Ready

A recognised acoustic underlay with a minimum thickness of, 2 or 3 mm incorporating a PE film moisture barrier must be used on the flooring to reduce sound transmission and to control moisture ingress. This should be placed over a dry, flat substrate, with joints neatly taped. Joining between the plastic sheets should have sufficient overlap and/or sufficient tight joints to avoid leakage of vapour from underneath. Recommended overlap should be at least 20cm. For increased protection on concrete slabs 200um Builders Plastic can also be installed to avoid possible rising slab moisture. Tape all joints to seal the slab. The underlay / moisture film should be kicked up the skirting boards on perimeter walls to avoid moisture ingress.

Ensure that the sub floor is thoroughly cleaned to avoid mould growth. If the RH of the sub-floor be above 95%, the flooring should not be installed. This is strictly prohibited.

An allowance of at least 12-15 mm on each edge / perimeter should be provided to accommodate floor expansion. Please allow for expansion around heating tube outlets, connection with tiles and fixed items where the floor is installed. Room to room expansion at doorways is highly recommended. Use spacing-wedges during the installation to assist in maintaining the correct expansions gaps. Bigger rooms (e.g. halls, assembly-rooms) will require a larger allowance for expansion joints. We highly recommend expansion joints within an appropriate section of the room. Widths greater than 6-8 m will require increased expansion provisions. Length runs over 11m will require increased expansion provisions.

The plank in the last row must not be less than 300 mm. Therefore measure and plan the floor before the installation begins to calculate the first and last plank. When installing the laminate floor through several adjoining-rooms, expansion-joints must be provided at doorways to allow for normal expansion and contraction. When using the floating-system installation in a corridors and hallways, length-wise installation is required.

When the floating-method of installation is used, skirting-boards should be installed by fixing them directly to the adjacent wall, never fix them onto the floor-boards. This is to allow the floor to move freely without restrictions from skirting or door jambs etc.

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