



Legante Laminate Installation/Care Maintenance Instructions

Pre installation/ Job Preparation

Inspect the Flooring – Inspect material for color, finish, milling, and grade. Remove pieces that may not be acceptable once installed.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not accept responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been permanently installed.

Undercut Door Casings - Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece of flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or use a power jamb saw set at the correct height.

Blending of Cartons- To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we highly recommend that you open and work from several cartons at a time and dry-lay the flooring, mixing the planks from several cartons. This will allow you to blend the planks for maximum aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure color is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed.

Match Transition Moldings: For best appearance blend all transitions and moldings to planks that have similar color and graining. Set them aside for use as needed.

Layout of Flooring: “Racking the Floor” is essential to achieve a random appearance. Start by cutting four or five planks in random lengths, differing by at least six inches. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a nine-inch minimum between end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or used to start the next row.

Expansion space: Expansion space around the perimeter is required and should be equal to the thickness of the flooring material. For floating installation, the minimum is ½” regardless of the thickness of the material. For commercial installations use a minimum of ½” expansion.

**BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE INSTALLATION THAT MATCHES THE
PRODUCT YOU PURCHASED**

A. WHERE CAN THE FLOORING BE INSTALLED?

Install Legante Laminate in all rooms and all grade levels when proper preparation is used, and area meets moisture test requirements.

B. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN INSTALLING IN ANY POTENTIAL WET AREA.

Legante Laminate may be installed in potential wet areas like laundry or bathrooms. All perimeter expansion areas must be filled with a water repellent silicone sealant.

PREPARATION OF FLOOR:

Install Legante Laminate on concrete, ceramic tile, terrazzo, marble, or stone sub-floors that are smooth, level and well bonded. Legante Laminate may also be installed on wood or wood product sub-floors that are clean, well bonded, and smooth.

**DO NOT INSTALL OVER CARPET OR ANY CUSHIONED BACKED PRODUCT.
DO NOT INSTALL OVER ANY PRODUCT THAT IS NOT PROPERLY ADHERED.**

1. Sub-floors must be clean, dry, level and well bonded.
2. Remove all existing trim throughout the room.
3. Measure the door clearance. If the door will not clear the floor, the door must be trimmed to fit from the bottom.
4. Use ¼” spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. In large rooms, a ½” expansion gap may be preferred. **Important:** this ¼” gap must be maintained around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any other obstacles in floor.
5. Always work from left to right. Planks should run lengthwise against the longest wall, and if possible, parallel to incoming sunlight.
6. Always install tongue side facing wall.
7. Legante recommends Scuba Thermo Underlayment under all Legante Laminate installations. All other underlayment’s must first be approved by Legante Laminate.

BEGIN INSTALLATION:

- ◆ Begin the installation in the left-hand corner. Place the plank a minimum of ¼” from the left wall. Use spacers throughout all perimeter areas to ensure the correct expansion space is maintained.
- ◆ Place the second plank tight against the short end of the first plank.
- ◆ Fold down into the locked position with a single movement.
- ◆ Place the final plank face down with the short side towards the wall. The remaining expansion space should be at least a minimum of ¼” from the wall. Draw a pencil line where the plank is to be cut.
- ◆ Place the plank face down on the work surface and cut to size with a power saw. If you are using a hand saw, use a fine-toothed blade and cut the planks face up.
- ◆ Begin the second row. The first and last planks in the rows should have a minimum length of 24 inches.

- ◆ The minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 24 inches.
- ◆ Connect the planks in the following rows by aligning the end seam of each plank directly above the end seam of the preceding plank. Insert the long side seam at a slight angle first and as the top surfaces meet, rotate the plank down into the locked position.
- ◆ The distance to the walls can be adjusted when three rows are completed. Remember to place the flooring a minimum of ¼” from all walls or other vertical obstructions such as cabinets, pipes, or columns.
- ◆ In areas such as a doorjamb or cabinet kick base where planks cannot be angled to lock into place, use a wood chisel to remove the locking ridge from the bottom of the plank groove. Apply a 1/8” bead of tongue and groove adhesive to the bottom groove and gently tap the plank into place using a pull bar and hammer. Next, apply enough strips of painter’s tape across this seam to hold the joint securely in place until the adhesive sets. Using a clean, soft cloth, carefully clean up any excess adhesive on the surface of the planks.
- ◆ On the first and/or last row where there is no polymer tongue on the short side, glue the joint with Clear Elmer’s glue where they join on the short end.

DISASSEMBLY WHEN USING A LOCKING SYSTEM:

Your floor can be disassembled very easily, enabling replacement during installation and during use. Disassemble the panels by sliding them apart horizontally at the end seams.

RADIATOR PIPES:

- ◆ Drill the holes ¾” larger than the diameter of the pipes.
- ◆ Remove all spacers.
- ◆ Install molding and transition pieces. Attach wood color coordinated molding or your desired trim and transition pieces using nails, screws, or adhesive. Never attach any molding using nails, screws, or glue directly to Legante Laminate Flooring.

Recommended Subfloor Surfaces

Concrete Subfloor Guidelines

Concrete slabs should be of high compressive strength and constructed to prevent groundwater from permeating the concrete. Laminate flooring can be installed on, above, or below-grade. In addition, it can be installed over above-ground, suspended concrete floors. The suspended concrete must be a minimum of 1 1/2 inches thick and must be structurally sound.

The exception to this is lightweight concrete (which usually contains high amounts of gypsum) having a density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot. Test for lightweight concrete by using a nail to scratch the surface of the concrete. If the concrete crumbles or turns to powder, it is not sound, and you should NOT install the Laminate flooring. Use the floating installation method (5 ply products 3” or wider) only for lightweight concrete subfloors.

Wood Subfloors Guidelines

Subfloor panels should conform to U.S. Voluntary Product Standard PS1-07, Construction and Industrial Plywood and/or US Voluntary PS 2-04 and/or Canadian performance standard CAN/CSA 0325.0-92 Construction Sheathing. Other CSA standards also apply.

Acceptable Panel Subfloors

Truss/joist spacing will determine the minimum acceptable thickness of the panel subflooring. On truss/joist spacing of 16” o/c or less the industry standard for single panel subflooring is

minimum 5/8" 19/32", 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4x8 sheets. On truss/joist spacing of more than 16", up to 19.2" (488mm) o/c, the standard is nominal 3/4" (23/32", 18.3 mm) T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1) or nominal 3/4" 23/32", (18.3mm) OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4'x8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened. □ Truss/joist systems spaced over more than 19.2" (488mm) o/c up to a maximum of 24" (610mm) require minimum 7/8" T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1), or minimum 7/8" OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4'x8' sheets glued and mechanically fastened – or two layers of subflooring or brace between the truss/joist in accordance with the truss/joist manufacturer's recommendations and with local building codes. Some truss/joist systems cannot be cross-braced and still maintain stability.

For existing wood floors install new flooring at right angles to the existing flooring.

Do not glue, staple, or nail down flooring over particleboard, floating application is acceptable (products 3" or wider).

Do not install over existing glue down Laminate floors.

Ceramic tile and terrazzo: All wax and sealers must be removed with an appropriate cleaner/stripper. Ceramic tile and terrazzo should be abraded to allow for proper adhesion. Check for loose tiles by tapping and re-adhere. Fill grout lines with a cementitious latex fortified leveling compound.

Resilient tile, resilient sheet vinyl: Material must be full spread and secured to the subfloor. Do not install over perimeter glued floors. Do not install over more than one layer that exceeds 1/8" in thickness.

Acoustic Cork Underlayment: (Glue Down Only) – Install the cork underlayment according to the manufacturer's instructions. The cork underlayment must be fully adhered to the subfloor. The cork underlayment should be of pure granulated cork combined with a polyurethane binder with a minimum density of 11.4 lbs. per cubic foot and not to exceed 13 lbs. per cubic foot.

Radiant Heat Guidelines:

- ◆ Newly installed water-type radiant heating flooring systems should be in operation, with the temperature set between 64-72 °F, for a minimum of 4 weeks. This will ensure that any subfloor moisture has properly dried.
- ◆ Older/existing water-type radiant floor heating systems need to be fully pressure tested, properly maintained, and set to a minimum of 64 °F for at least 4 days before delivery, acclimation or installation of the flooring begins.
- ◆ Electric mat or mesh radiant heating systems many times are not acceptable. They must be specifically designated as suitable for use with laminate flooring systems by the manufacturer. Diamond Living makes no warranties as to their suitability and disclaims any defects caused by them.
- ◆ Always check wood sub-floors to ensure that the moisture content is less than 10% using an accurate wood moisture meter. Concrete sub-floors must register "dry" using a reliable concrete moisture meter.
- ◆ The PH level of concrete sub-floors should register between 6 and 9.
- ◆ Sub-floors must fully comply with Legante Laminate "dry" requirements before proceeding with the delivery, acclimation, installation, and any other required curing processes.
- ◆ Regulate the job site to ensure that the relative humidity is between 35 and 65 percent, and that the temperature is between 60- and 80-degrees F, throughout the flooring

delivery, acclimation, and installation.

- ◆ After completing the installation, do not change/adjust the radiant heat settings for at least 48 hours. At any given time after the initial 48-hour period, the homeowner should only increase or decrease the temperature settings 4 to 5 degrees per day, so that the laminate flooring can gradually adjust to the temperature changes.
- ◆ Never raise the flooring surface temperature setting above 85 degrees F.
- ◆ It is important to note that when laminate is used over a radiant heating system, minor gapping can occur and should be expected. Maintaining consistent relative humidity levels will help to minimize this occurrence. Seasonal changes can also have the same effect on laminate, so temperature and humidity controls should always be monitored to ensure the best performance.

Sub-Floors:

- ◆ Test floor for excessive moisture before installing over concrete, vinyl tile, concrete covered with ceramic tile, marble, stone, or linoleum. To do so, cut 3' x 3' squares of polyethylene plastic (one plastic square for every 200 sq. ft. of floor space). Spread plastic around different areas of the subfloor for a more accurate evaluation. Firmly tape down all edges of the plastic sealing them directly to the existing subfloor. Leave plastic down for 24 to 48 hours. Look for moisture under the plastic or for the cement to darken, this indicates excessive moisture.
- ◆ Always perform a Calcium Chloride Moisture Emissions Test. The maximum allowable reading is 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft./24 hours. You must retain your test and results to have a valid warranty.
- ◆ Concrete Sub-Floors – The use of Scuba Thermo underlayment is required over all concrete subfloor installations. A 6mil poly is not needed when using Scuba Thermo.
- ◆ Wood Sub-Floors – no additional plastic vapor barrier should be installed but subfloor must meet moisture restrictions. If moisture levels are too high, this must be alleviated before flooring is installed. Your contractor will need to diagnose your individual site conditions to solve this issue.
- ◆ Water/Pet Resistant floors require that the entire perimeter of the installation must be sealed with 100% silicone sealant. All expansion spaces must be filled with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and covered with 100% silicone sealant. You must apply 100% silicone sealant to all moldings at the point of contact with the flooring surface and at all connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.
- ◆ Installations exceeding 4000 sq. ft. must have the proper expansion joints installed.

JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATION

- ◆ It is the installer/ owners' responsibility to ensure that the jobsite conditions and jobsite subfloor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any Laminate flooring. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, sub-surface, or job-site environmental conditions. All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.
- ◆ Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt, curing compounds, sealers, drywall mud, paint, wax, grease, urethane, or other materials that may affect the integrity of the flooring material or adhesives used to install the flooring.
- ◆ All subfloors and subfloor systems must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only

establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance of a Laminate floor. Whenever possible install the planks perpendicular to the floor joists for maximum stability. Our warranties Do not cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

- ◆ Test wood sub floors and wood flooring for moisture content using a pin-type moisture meter. Take readings of the subfloor – minimum of 20 readings per 1000 sq. ft. and average the results. A “dry” subfloor that is ready to work on has a moisture content of 10% or less and the subfloor moisture content should be within 4% of the wood moisture content.
- ◆ The moisture content for concrete subfloors registered after a calcium chloride test should not be greater than 3 pounds per 1000 square feet of area. If it exceeds these limits, DO NOT install the flooring.
- ◆ Before moisture testing begins, the slab must be cured for a minimum of 30 days.
- ◆ Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6-mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist to be no less than 18” and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
- ◆ The subfloor must be flat, meeting a minimum of 3/16” within 10’ or 1/8” in 6’.
- ◆ Concrete subfloors - Grind high spots or use a Portland-cement-based leveling material (minimum compressive strength 3000 psi) to fill all low spots. Follow the leveling compound manufacturer’s instruction. Leveling compounds must be allowed to thoroughly cure and dry prior to installation of wood flooring.
- ◆ All “wet” work – i.e. – paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, plumbing must be complete and dry well in advance of delivery of flooring.
- ◆ Gutters and downspouts should be in place and the exterior grade complete to allow for proper drainage of water away from the building’s exterior perimeter.
- ◆ Flooring should not be exposed to extremes of humidity or moisture.
- ◆ Permanent HVAC should be on and operational a minimum of 5 days and maintained between 65 – 75 degrees (F) and a relative humidity of 35%- 55% prior to delivery, during, and after installation of the flooring.
- ◆ It is the installer/homeowner responsibility to ensure that the conditions are acceptable prior to the installation of the floors. Legante Laminate shall not be liable for any problems/damages that are related to or attributed to improper jobsite conditions.
- ◆ In new construction, Legante Laminate should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture, (plumbing, plaster/drywall ceilings or wall finishes, painting, etc.), should be finished and adequate time allowed for complete drying, prior to Legante Laminate being installed. Heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) should be fully operational and capable of maintaining a consistent room temperature at 60-80° F, and a constant relative humidity range of 35%-65%, for at least 5 days (for existing construction) and 30 days (for new construction), prior to beginning the wood flooring installation.
- ◆ Where the above referenced site conditions have not been met for at least five days, normal 48-hour flooring acclimation in the previously stated climate-controlled conditions is required.
- ◆ Flooring should not be delivered until the above environmental guidelines are met. Concrete and plaster should be fully cured and dry. Check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture. Legante Laminate requires a minimum of 6mil vapor barrier placed on 100%

- of the surface of the ground in crawl spaces not finished with cement.
- ◆ Wood Subfloors must be dry, (less than 10% moisture content), and within a 4% range of the moisture content of the Legante Laminate being installed.
 - ◆ Handle with care. Do not stand on ends or sides. Store Legante Laminate flooring flat with proper support on the ends and center sections in a dry place.
 - ◆ Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed as close to the center of the installation area as possible, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Keep out of direct sunlight and away from heat or air vents.
 - ◆ Do not open the Legante Laminate cartons until ready to begin the installation.
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- ◆ Carefully inspect all Legante Laminate flooring prior to installation for defects/objections:
 - ◆ You must, as the final inspector, inspect for proper color, finish, style, and quality prior to installation. Verify that the flooring is the correct material. Care should be taken at this time to remove or repair characteristics you do not desire.
 - ◆ It is your responsibility to inspect the flooring before it is installed. If you are not satisfied with the flooring prior to installation, contact the dealer you purchased the flooring from. Do not install the flooring. An installed floor is an accepted floor.
 - ◆ Legante Laminate shall not be responsible for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been installed.
 - ◆ The use of stain, filler, or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
 - ◆ An 8% cutting allowance, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Some installations will require a higher percentage.)

CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- ◆ **REGULAR CARE AND MAINTENANCE:** Regular cleaning and sweeping of sand and dirt is required to maintain your new Legante Laminate flooring surface. Sweep or vacuum regularly since built-up grit will damage the surface of the floor. The vacuum head must be a brush or felt type. Be certain the wheels of the vacuum are clean and do not damage the finish. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar.
- ◆ **SPILLS:** Remove all spills immediately. Use a dry or damp cloth to wipe the surface clean and dry.
- ◆ **CLEANING:** Use Legante Laminate approved products to maintain your floor. Bona Laminate Cleaner can be used. Consult an approved dealer for instructions.
 - ◆ Do not use harsh cleaners or abrasive cleaning products to clean Legante Laminate. Never wet mop, damp mop or clean your floor with water or other products mixed with water. This can severely damage the flooring and will void the warranty.
 - ◆ Do not use 2 in 1 cleaner. The use of these products will void the finish warranty and may produce unsatisfactory results when not applied properly. Do not use oil, soaps, liquid or paste wax products or any other household cleaners that contain citrus oils, lemon oil, tung oil, silicon, or ammonia. The warranty does not cover damage caused by any of these products.

◆ **FURNITURE:**

- ◆ Never slide furniture or other heavy items across the floor. Always protect the floor surface when moving items across the floor. Use a dolly and protective materials when moving heavy objects, furniture, or appliances.
- ◆ **PETS:** Clean up pet waste immediately as it is harmful to your Legante Laminate floor. Keep pets' nails trimmed, and paws clean and free of dirt, gravel, grease, oil, and stains.
- ◆ **REMOVE SHOES** with spiked or damaged heels before walking on floor.
- ◆ **MAINTAIN THE PROPER RELATIVE HUMIDITY** in your home between 35% - 55%. The use of a humidifier during heating seasons may help reduce shrinkage of the wood due to low humidity.

MAINTENANCE TIPS:

- ◆ Place outside doormats in all outside doorways to reduce dirt and moisture.
- ◆ Wipe up all moisture spills immediately.
- ◆ Clean the floor often.
- ◆ Do not use excessive water.
- ◆ Do not use unapproved cleaners, soaps, or detergents.
- ◆ Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner and a terry cloth mop kit will remove most substances from your floor.