



LOCKNPLACE WITH CLIP LAMINATE INSTALLATION

CAUTION: WOOD DUST

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen. The sawing, sanding, and/or machining of wood products can produce wood dust that can cause respiratory, eye, and skin irritations.

Wood machining power tools should be equipped with a dust collector to reduce airborne wood dust. Wear an appropriate NIOSH designated dust mask to reduce exposure to airborne wood dust. Avoid contact with eyes and skin by using proper safety glasses and protective clothing. In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes. For further technical information questions or to request a Product Specification Data Sheet contact the manufacturer at 1-800-441-7429.

Attention California Installers and Consumers WARNING!

Installation of this product and any wood product may create wood dust, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer

GENERAL INFORMATION

Site Conditions

- It is recommended that floor covering installation shall not begin until all other trades are completed.
- Material should always be visually inspected prior to installation. Any material installed with visual defects will not be considered a legitimate claim as it pertains to labor cost.
- HVAC System: Must be operational, maintaining the following conditions 7 days prior to, during and after installation.
- Temperature and Relative Humidity: The installation site must be between **65 ° F and 85 ° F** and relative humidity should be between **35% to 65%**.
- Acclimation: No acclimation period is required when installation site conditions are climate controlled prior to and during installation of Shaw Laminate Flooring Products. This means that Shaw Laminate Flooring products can be installed faster and more efficiently than conventional alternatives.

Substrate Testing

- **Concrete Subfloors** – Always test a concrete subfloor for excessive moisture before installing over concrete, concrete covered with ceramic tile, marble, stone, vinyl tile, or linoleum. To test concrete, use a properly calibrated and reliable concrete moisture meter.
- The maximum allowable moisture content percentage for concrete is 4%. If the moisture meter readings are above 4%, have a qualified floor covering contractor perform a Calcium Chloride moisture Emissions test. The maximum allowable reading for a Calcium Chloride Test is 5 lbs./1000 sq. ft./24 hours.
- **Wood-based Subfloors** – Moisture content of the wood subfloor must not exceed 12% when checked using a pin-type wood moisture meter. Whenever readings are higher than 12%, full evaluations of the joist systems, crawl spaces or basement areas beneath the wood subflooring are also necessary. Call Shaw Information Center at 1-800-441-7429 for more assistance.

Storage and Handling

- Do not store cartons near heating/cooling ducts or direct sunlight.

APPROVED SUBSTRATES

Concrete

- Concrete floors shall be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16" in 10 feet.



- F-Number System: Overall values of FF 36/FL 20 may be appropriate for floor coverings.
- **Installation of 6-mil vapor barrier is required over concrete substrates:** Install 6-mil (minimum thickness) age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier over the concrete subfloor (unless the underlayment being used has a moisture barrier). Tape seams with adhesive tape, such as duct tape. The vapor barrier should be installed up the wall by 1 inch.

WARNING: DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEAD BLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERISE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “CUTBACK” ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. 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 and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to www.rfci.com.

Lightweight Concrete

- Lightweight aggregate concrete having dry densities greater than 90 lbs. per cubic foot may be acceptable under flooring.
- Concrete slabs with heavy static and/or dynamic loads should be designed with higher strengths and densities to support such loads.
- Perform Bond testing to determine compatibility of adhesive to the substrate. Shaw 9050 primer can be utilized to promote adhesion.

Wood SubFloors

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and conform to guidelines of ASTM F 1482 and in compliance with local building codes

- Wooden substrates shall be flat and smooth within 1/8” in 6 feet or 3/16” in 10 feet.
- Insulate and protect crawl spaces with a vapor retarder covering the ground.
- It is recommended that your chosen APA underlayment grade panels be designed for installation under flooring and carry a written warranty covering replacement of the entire flooring system.
- DO NOT install over sleeper construction sub floors or wood sub floors applied directly over concrete.
- Not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood.
- Crumb rubber underlayments are not an acceptable option for use with resilient floor coverings due to performance issues resulting from chemical incompatibilities.

Existing Floor Coverings

NOTE: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING IF THE EXISTING FLOORING IS SUITABLE TO BE INSTALLED OVER TOP OF WITH LAMINATE, RESTS SOLELY WITH INSTALLER/FLOORING CONTRACTOR ON SITE. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO SUITABILITY, THE EXISTING FLOORING SHOULD BE REMOVED, OR AN ACCEPTABLE UNDERLAYMENT INSTALLED OVER IT. INSTALLATIONS OVER EXISTING RESILIENT MAY BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INDENTATION.

Quarry Tile, Terrazzo, Ceramic Tile, Poured Floors (Epoxy, Polymeric, Seamless):

- Must be totally cured and well bonded to the concrete and free of any residual solvents and petroleum derivatives.
- Waxes, polishes, grease, grime, and oil must be removed.
- Show no signs of moisture or alkalinity.
- Cuts, cracks, gouges, dents, and other irregularities in the existing floor covering must be repaired or replaced.
- Fill any low spots, holes, chips, and seams that may telegraph through the new flooring.
- Grind any highly polished or irregular/smooth surfaces.



- Quarry tile or Ceramic tile grout joints and textured surfaces must be filled with an embossing leveler or substrate manufacturer approved material.

Radiant Heated Floors

- Laminate flooring can be installed on under-floor radiant heating systems if the heating element is installed into wood or concrete subfloors.
- Newly installed water-type radiant heating flooring systems should be in operation, with the temperature set between 64°F -72°F for a minimum of 4 weeks. This will ensure that any sub floor moisture has properly dried.
- minimum of 64°F for at least 4 days before delivery, acclimation, or the installation of the flooring begins.
- 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 adjust to the temperature changes in a gradual manner.
- Surface temperature must not exceed 85°F.
- Follow installation instructions for wood or concrete as outlined above.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- Substrates must be structurally sound, clean, flat, and dry.
- Substrates must be free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint, curing agents, concrete sealers, adhesives, loosely bonded toppings, loose particles and any other substance or condition that may prevent or reduce adhesion.
- Substrates must be flat and smooth within 1/8" in 6 feet or 3/16" in 10 feet.
- Fill depressions or cracks with a cementitious patching / leveling compound that meet or exceed Shaw Industries maximum moisture level and pH requirements. Use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable.

INSTALLATION

Important information

- Allow a minimum of 3/8 inch expansion space around the perimeter of the room and any fixed objects.
- An expansion gap T-strip is required when the length or width of the planks measures 45-feet (12.2m). Transition strips must be placed in all doorways measuring 36 inches (.92m) or less.
- Stagger boards by a minimum of 12 inches to 16 inches.
- Flooring should be installed and maintained in a climate-controlled environment with ambient temperature between 65°F - 85°F and a relative humidity of 35% - 65%.
- The minimum length for the first and last plank per row is 12 inches.
- **NOTE:** Create a watertight seal by applying a flexible 100% silicone sealant to the entire perimeter of the installation. DO NOT use acrylic sealant.
 - Fill all expansion spaces with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant. Larger gaps at Baseboards can be filled using a larger foam backer rod (as needed).
 - Prior to installing the moldings, apply silicon sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the flooring surface. Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.
 - Apply silicone sealant at connections to doorframes or any other fixed object.

Tools

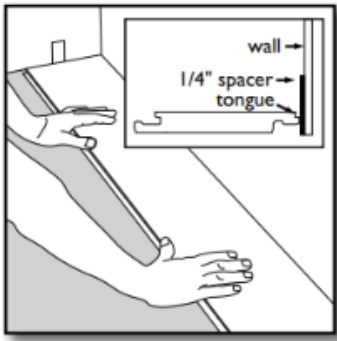
Caution: Use safety glasses, gloves, and a dust mask or respirator when cutting this product. During the cutting process, laminate may create wood dust; install in a well-ventilated area

- Laminate installation kit (including spacers, tapping block, pull bar)
- Premium grade laminate flooring underlayment (for flooring without an attached pad)

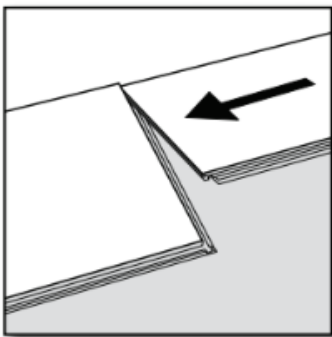


- Hammer
- Table or hand saw
- Carbide-tipped circular saw blades
- Vacuum
- Tape measure
- Duct tape
- Premium laminate glue
- Sandpaper
- Level
- Age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier (0.008 inch) – for installations over concrete
- Safety glasses
- Gloves
- Dust mask or respirator

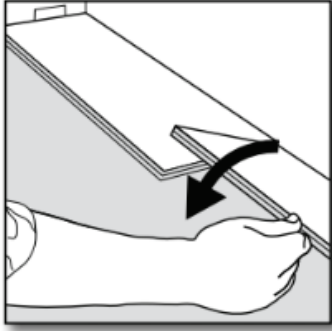
Installation of Laminate



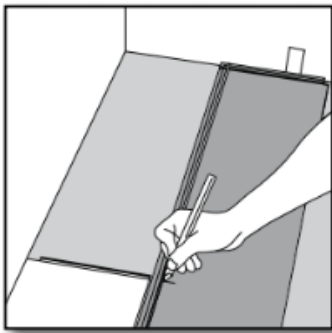
Step 1 – Begin the installation in the left-hand corner. Place the plank a minimum of 3/8 inch from the left wall. Use the installation spacers throughout all perimeter areas to ensure the correct expansion space is maintained.



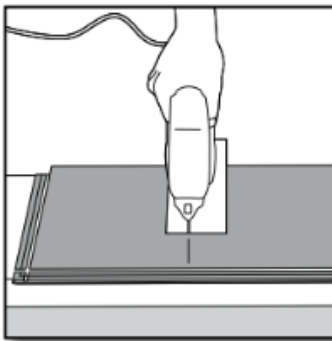
Step 2 – In the first row, place the second plank tight against the short end of the first plank.



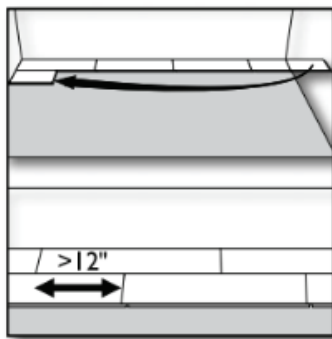
Step 3 – Fold down into the locked position with a single movement. The plastic clips will engage to lock this plank into place.



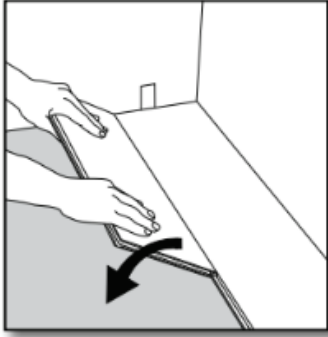
Step 4 – Place the final plank face down with the short side (without the locking strip) towards the wall. The remaining expansion space should be at least a minimum of 3/8 inch from the wall. Draw a pencil line where the plank is to be cut.



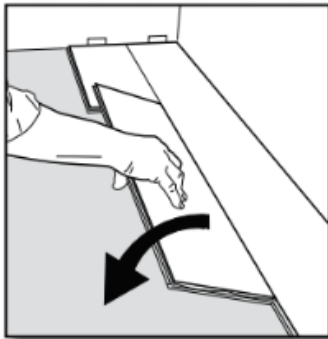
Step 5 – Place the plank face down on the work surface and cut it to size with a power saw or guillotine cutter. If you are using a hand saw, use a fine-toothed blade, and cut the planks face up.



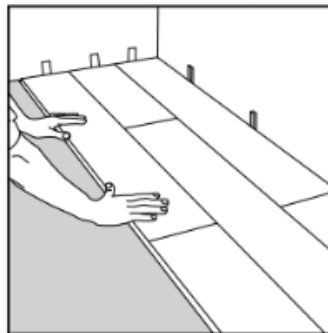
Step 6 – Use a cut piece of board from the previous row to start the next row. This starting plank section must be at least 12 inches long. If the piece is too short, start with a new board. Cut the new board into one-third, one-half, or two-thirds length sections, depending upon what is required to maintain the random stagger from one to the next. Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 12 to 16 inches from one row to the next.



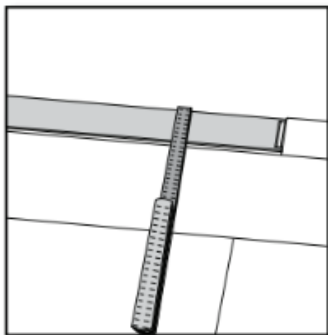
Step 7- Place the plank at an angle against the plank in the previous row. Press the edge forward against the previous row, and then fold down at the same time.



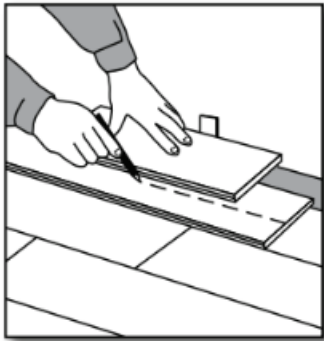
Step 8 - Connect the planks in the following rows by aligning the end seam of each plank directly above the end seam of the preceding plank. Insert the long side seam at a slight angle first, and as the tip surfaces meet, rotate the plank down into the locked position.



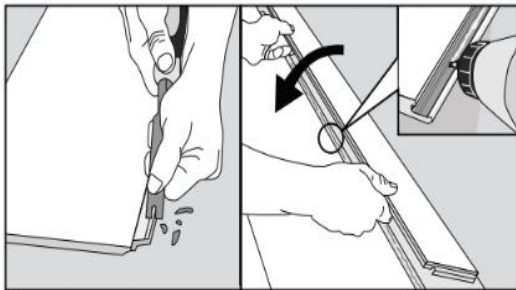
Step 9 - The distance to the walls can be adjusted when three rows are completed. Remember to place the flooring a minimum of 3/8 inch from all walls or other vertical obstructions such as cabinets, pipes, or columns,



Step 10 - Measure and cut the planks in the last row to fit. Remember to allow for a minimum of 3/8 inch expansion space from the wall.



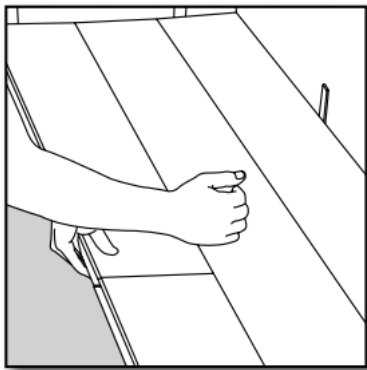
Step 11 – Use a full width scrap plank to mark your cutting line on the last row.



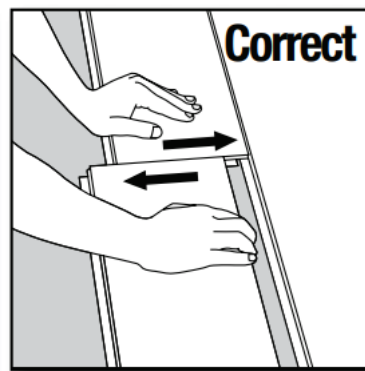
Step 12 – in areas such as doorjamb or cabinet kick base where planks cannot be angles to lock into place, use a wood chisel to remove the locking ridge from the bottom of the plank groove. Apply a 1/8-inch bead of tongue and groove adhesive into the bottom groove, and gently tap the plank into place 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.

Disassembly

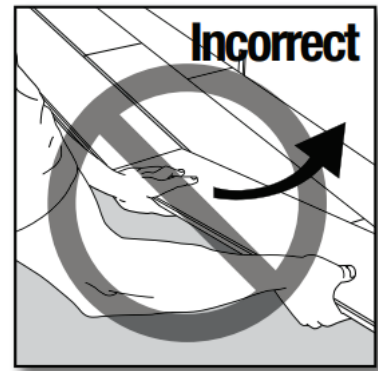
Your floor can be disassembled easily, enabling replacement during installation and also during use.



Separate the whole row by carefully lifting and releasing the whole row. Fold up and release the whole long side of the row, being very careful not to allow the planks to bend downward at the end seams! This could damage the locking mechanism of the planks!



Disassemble the panels by sliding them apart horizontally at the end seams. **(Do not fold connect planks upwards).**



Final Installation:

- Remove the spacers placed along the perimeter of the room and cover the expansion space with the appropriate molding. Be sure to fasten the molding into the wall, not through the flooring. Quarter rounds should be pre-drilled before nailing them to the wall.



- Felt protection pads should be placed under furniture legs or other heavy objects to be left in place for an extended period of time. Do not drag or pull heavy furniture, as doing so will damage the floor.

POST INSTALLATION INFORMATION

Cleaning and Care

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
- Use acetone/nail polish remover on a clean white cloth to clean tough spots such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar. Wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove any remaining residue.
- Regularly sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Periodically clean the floor with cleaning products made specifically for laminate floor care such as Shaw TOTALCARE® Hard Surface Cleaner or comparable product.
- When cleaning, do not saturate the floor with water as this could cause swelling, warping, delamination, and joint separation. Remember Repel is water resistant not waterproof.
- Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
- Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
- For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, use a solvent such as isopropyl alcohol or odorless mineral spirits. Allow the solvent to dwell 1-2 minutes and gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a plastic spoon, agitate with a red scotch rite pad and rinse with a dampened cloth. After rinsing, clean with a neutral pH floor cleaner, such as Shaw TOTALCARE® Hard Surface Cleaner.
- A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.
- CAUTION - Using too much water or any other cleaning solution could result in the planks swelling, creating permanent damage to your floor. This damage would NOT be covered by the Manufacturer's Limited Warranty.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- 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.
- To prevent slippage of area rugs, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
- Use floor protectors and wide, load-bearing leg bases/ rollers to minimize the chance of indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector.
- To minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the wood, maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35% and 65% throughout the year.

Heating season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tends to create very dry conditions.

Non-Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.

- Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
- Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.
- A protective mat should be used under furniture or chairs with castors/wheels. Never try to slide heavy objects across the floor.

MINOR REPAIR INSTRUCTIONS

In the event that accidental damage occurs, minor scratches or dents can be repaired using a Flooring Touchup or Color-fill Kit. This special touch-up kit contains a filler material color coordinated to your floor color. When Color-fill is used properly, the repaired area is often invisible. The repaired area should hold up to foot traffic and wear just like the rest of your laminate flooring.



GLUELESS LAMINATE BOARD REPLACEMENT REPAIRS

- Glueless laminate may be assembled and disassembled several times.
- Carefully disassembled glueless joints will retain their original locking integrity during reassembly. New replacement plank(s) should be acclimated in the replacement area for at least 72 hours. This allows them to equalize to the conditions of the flooring in the room where the replacement(s) will take place.
- Be sure to stack the individual planks in the proper order for reinstallation. This usually eliminates the need to cut planks for start or end of the row lengths. To replace the damaged board(s), first remove baseboard, wall base, or quarter round as needed.
- Take the flooring apart one row at a time. Lift each row to detach, then separate the individual boards.
- For best visual results, replace the damaged board with a piece from the edge of the original installation.
- Insert the properly acclimated new plank(s) along the outer edge of the original flooring installation during reassembly. This practice minimizes the chance that a newer plank will stand out from the original installation.
- Reinstall the baseboard, wall base, or quarter round, and the replacement repair is complete.

WARRANTY

To request a copy of the Limited Warranty, please call 1-800-441-7429.

WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.

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