

AquaGuard™ - Water Resistant Flooring

Installation guidelines

Before You Start:

Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void the warranty.

Important Notice:

After installation, make sure to keep the room within a temperature range of 15°C to 25°C (60°F to 80°F) and the relative humidity levels maintained between 40-55%. Excessively high or low temperatures/RH levels may cause this product to expand or contract and lead to visual defects of the floor that will not be warranted.

Installation in areas with sustained direct sunlight:

In cases where the flooring is in direct sunlight for much of the day (Sunrooms, etc.) it is recommended to use blinds or curtains to reduce the UV exposure to the flooring.

Different production runs can have slight color and gloss variations, it is best to order all the flooring than is needed at one time to eliminate differences within the flooring. Before starting the installation, it is best to check the production run# **or date** which is indicated on the label on the short side (end) of the carton. If you find that you have cartons from different production runs, it is highly recommended that you open 2-3 cartons and install a mix of planks from each different production run on your floor. This will result in a more natural looking floor.

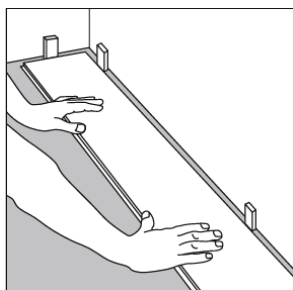
- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 5 -10% of flooring for waste.
- If the boxes of flooring were exposed to extreme temperatures (under 10°C – 50°F or over 40°C - 105°F) within the 12 hours before the installation, acclimation is **highly recommended** as most floor coverings will fail from being exposed to these conditions. In this case, keep the boards in room temperature for at least 12 hours in opened packages before you start the installation. The room temperature must be maintained consistent between 15° to 25° C (60°to 80°F) before, during, and after installation. For floor surfaces exceeding 12.9m. (40 ft.) and or lengths exceeding 18.28m (60 ft), and flooring that connects to adjoining rooms or floor surfaces which do not join symmetrically, use expansion joints and transitions to divide the floor sections.
- Inspect your subfloor before you begin. It must be clean and flat to 5mm (3/16”) within a 3 meters (10 foot) span.
- Although this floors backing is waterproof, it is not aimed to be used as a moisture barrier. The subfloor must be dry (max 2.5% moisture content - CM method). This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas.
- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wooden floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin installation.
- With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave a 1cm (1/2”) gap between walls and fixtures such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc. **Tip: When installing around pipes, drill the holes 20 mm (3/4”) larger than the diameter of the pipes.**

- Relative Humidity Levels of your room should be maintained at 40-55 % at 15° to 25° C (60° to 80°F).
- Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the planks the length direction of the room or the planks parallel to the main light direction.
- Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 50mm (2"). If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. When measuring, take the free gap requirement of about 10mm (1/2") of the floor perimeter into account. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the lengthways direction.
- Inspect each individual plank one by one before installation. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation, once installed it becomes the installers responsibility.
- Due to sudden temperature or humidity changes in the home, which has the potential to negatively affect this flooring, 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's warranty. Below instructions are for radiant heating systems using water.

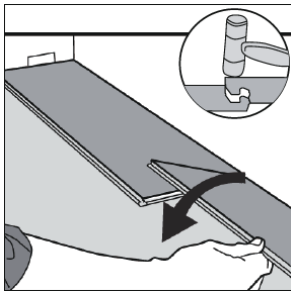
Ensure the radiant heat surface temperature never exceeds 29°C (85°F). Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system prior to the flooring being installed. The maximum moisture content of the screed is 1.5% (CM method). Shut down the floor heating at least 48 hours prior to installation. Make sure that the temperature in the room is at least 15°C (60°F) during installation. It is recommended that the radiant heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the floor. Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

Tools and Supplies Required

- Spacers
- Saw
- Rubber Mallet
- Pencil
- Tape Measure
- Utility Knife
- Construction Adhesive

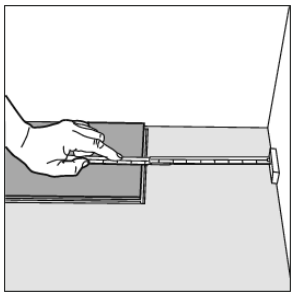


1. After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should begin laying in the left-hand corner. Place the floorboard 10mm (1/2") from the left wall. Use spacers between the Wall and the floorboard.

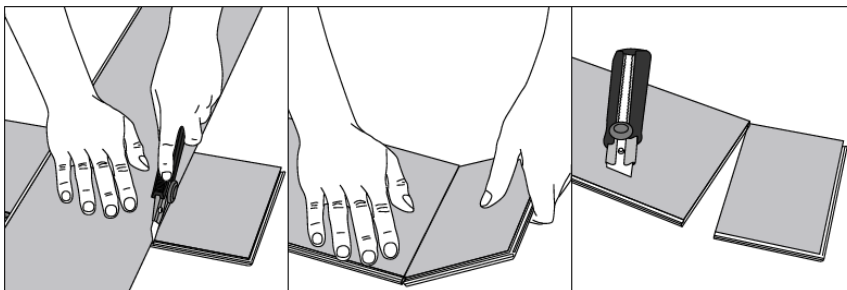


2. Second plank, first row. Insert the plank and gently lay down the plank. **NOTE:** If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing.

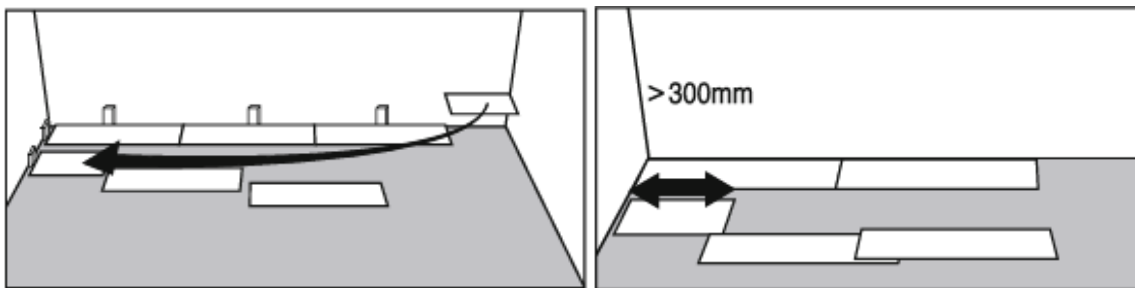
WARNING: FAILURE TO PROPERLY LINE UP THE END JOINT AND ATTEMPTING TO FORCE IT IN WHILE OUT OF ALIGNMENT COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THE END JOINT.



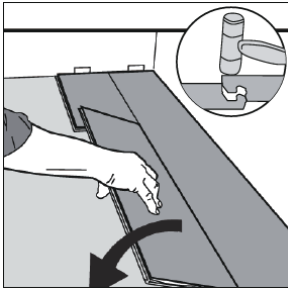
3. At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 10mm (1/2") to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.



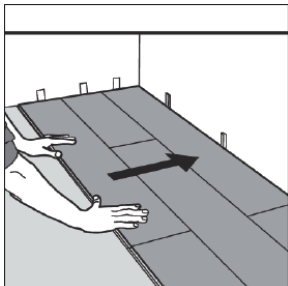
4. To cut the plank, use a table saw or equivalent, and cut with the top side facing up.



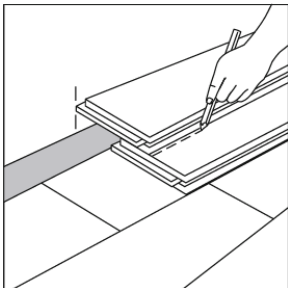
5. Start the second row with the leftover cut part of the last plank of the previous row. This small plank should measure at least 15.24cm (6"). Otherwise, use another plank that should be cut in two. Any adjacent rows, the end joint cuts are distant from at least 20.32cm (8").



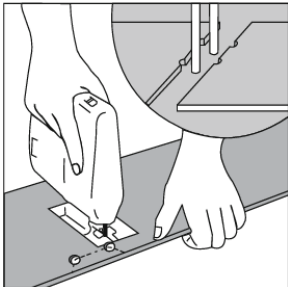
6. Click the short end into the previous plank, and then click the long side of the plank into the previous row using an angle of 30 degrees. Drop the plank and gently press down the plank with a tapping block or rubber mallet so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are tight. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. **NOTE:** If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing.



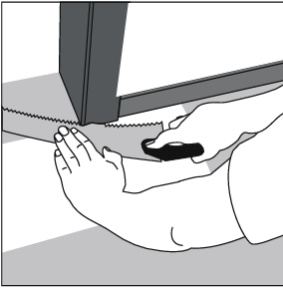
7. After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by leaving an expansion gap of 10mm (1/2"). Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 20.32cm (8"), both when in the same row as when from one row to the next one.



8. To lay the last row: position a loose board exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top, with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of the board to mark the first board. Cut along this line to obtain the required width. Insert this cut board against the wall. The last row should be at least 50mm (2") wide. The spacers can then be removed.



9. **Holes for pipes:** measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20mm (7/8") larger. Saw off a piece as shown in the figure and lay the board in place on the floor Then lay the sawed-off piece in place.



10. **Door molding and skirting:** lay a board (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and as shown in the figure, and cut using a hand saw or equivalent. When installing, slide the plank under the molding.

III. Maintenance

- Sweep or damp mop using a hardwood floor cleaner and micro fiber dust mop.
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Protect floor from constant direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours
- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture
- Use walk off mats at entrance ways.

Move area rugs or furniture periodically to reduce fading due to oxidation

- Make sure pets have nails clipped regularly.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor.
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor

IV. Disassembling



Separate the whole row by lifting it up delicately at an angle. To separate the planks, tilt slightly and slide them apart.