

Installation instructions

Thank you for choosing our flooring. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years.

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

I. GENERAL PREPARATIONS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All wood-based products, even those specifically designed to have increased resistance to moisture, are hygroscopic (they will react to the moisture in the environment) and as a result will expand or contract accordingly. All sources of under floor moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. Although this product has been designed with bathroom installation in mind it is not waterproof and excessive wetting is to be avoided and water spillages dried promptly.

This product has a pre-attached underlayment. Do not install over carpet or any additional underlayment (except a 6 mil poly-film moisture barrier over concrete). The use of the Sentinel Protect Plus Underlayment under the product is warranted for residential applications only, including multi-family housing and condominiums (residential unit only). Do not use any additional underlayment in commercial applications (e.g. industrial areas, commercial foyers, restaurants, etc. or any areas with heavy rolling loads). Using additional underlayment in commercial applications such as these will void the warranty.

TOOLS REQUIRED:

Spacers, rubber mallet, ruler, pencil, tape measure, utility knife, knee pads, safety glasses.

• Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage, including defects or discrepancies in color or shine; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.

• It is preferred to lay boards perpendicular to the window, following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, make sure to always work from 3 to 4 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.

• Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specific requirements described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install the floor.

• Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport and handle the cartons in a manner to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on edge.

• Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle; get assistance.

• Calculate the room surface prior to installation and depending the shape and installation area, plan an extra 20 % of flooring for cutting.

• The environment where the flooring is to be installed is critically important with regard to successful installation and continued performance of the flooring products. This product is intended to be installed in interior locations only. These interior locations must meet climatic and structural requirements as well.

• In most cases, this product does not need to be acclimated. However, if the boxes of flooring were exposed over 2 hours to extreme temperatures under 50°F / 10°C or over 104°F / 40°C within the 12 hours before the installation, acclimation is required. In this case, keep the boards in room temperature for at least 12 hours in unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be maintained consistent between 70-80°F / 20-25°C at 30-65% relative humidity.

• Flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature of 70-80°F / 20-25°C at 30-65% relative humidity before and during the installation. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.

• After installation, make sure that the floor is not exposed to temperatures less than 50°F / 10°C or greater than 104°F / 40°C.

• For floor surfaces exceeding 4356 ft² / 400 m² and/or lengths exceeding 66 ft / 20 m, use expansion moldings.

II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

• The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3/16" / 5 mm within 10 ft / 3 m.

• The substrate should not slope more than 1" / 25 mm per 6 ft / 2 m in any direction.

• Depressions, deep grooves, expansion joints and other subfloor imperfections must be filled with patching & leveling compound.

• Subfloors must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, any foreign matter and contaminants.

• Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.

• Although this floor is waterproof, it is not aimed to be used as a moisture barrier. The concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lb / 3.63 kg (ASTM F1869) / 90% RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9 / 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.

• Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will diminish the products inherent strength in resisting indentations.

WOOD SUBFLOORS

• If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.

• Nail or screw every 6" / 15 cm along joints to avoid squeaking.

• Dimensions and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required to cover 100 % of the crawl space earth.

• We recommend laying the flooring crossways to the existing floorboards.

• All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.

CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

• Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. Curing agents and hardeners could cause bonding failure and should not be used.

• We recommend using a minimum 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film as a moisture barrier between the concrete subfloor and the flooring.

DO NOT INSTALL OVER

• Any type of carpet.

• Existing carpet-backed vinyl flooring.

• Floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.

• Hardwood flooring / wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In-floor Radiant Heat: Flooring can be installed over 1/2" / 12 mm embedded radiant heat using the floating method. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 81°F / 27°C. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

• Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.

• Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture out of the system.

• Make sure that the temperature in the room is maintained consistent between 70-80°F / 20-25°C at 30-65% relative humidity before and during the installation.

• Floor temperature must not exceed 81°F / 27°C.

• Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (5-degree increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.

• Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the floors. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath the floors could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install the flooring over embedded radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

III. INSTALLATION

• Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.

• Within a floating floor, you must always ensure you leave a 1/4" / 6 mm gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc. These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed.

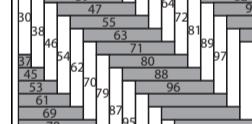
• Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate.

• Do not install your kitchen cabinets directly over your floor. Do not install your kitchen cabinets directly over your floor. The floor's quality can only be guaranteed as long as the floor is allowed move freely.

• CUTTING TIPS: To cut the plank, use a simple utility knife and ruler, and with the top side facing up, cut through the wood and several times on the same axis. The floor needs to cut through the wood veneer. You can then lift one half of the plank using your other hand to hold down the second placing it very close to the cut. The plank will split naturally.

ATTENTION: The letter "LEFT" or "RIGHT" marked on the back of each herringbone plank indicate two different profiling directions. There is the same number of L planks and R planks in each box. Please pay attention to the markings and always install them paired together. In below instructions, L planks are represented in white, R marked planks are represented in grey.

DIAGONAL HERRINGBONE

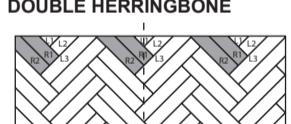


The subfloor should be even, dry, clean. Carpet staples or glue residues must be removed, and the floor must be clean to ensure proper installation.



Separating into distinctive piles will make it easier to find the correct plank should the L or R markings be cut off.

ONE STARTING SET



For the double fishbone pattern, the cuts are different than what is indicated in the template inside of the box. Use measurements in table below to cut the 5 planks (L1, L2, L3, R1, R2) of the starting set to the right size.

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